

QUESTIONS YOU SHOULD ASK THE HEAD

John Rae's school guide PAGE 13

STOP SMOKING FOR VANITY'S SAKE

Rachel Campbell-Johnston finds a new incentive PAGE 12

AN £11m NATIONAL CERTAINTY

Richard Cork on the genius of Stubbs PAGE 31

CLASSICS THEY FORGOT

Philip Howard on a flawed school booklist PAGE 6

'Spin doctors' may move into courts

Campaign to polish image of judges

By RICHARD FORD AND FRANCES GIBB

THE Home Office is to launch an unprecedented public relations offensive to improve confidence in judges and magistrates...



Bingham: judges are sending more to jail

Judges - widely seen as too lenient and out of touch - are also considering setting up a network of court press officers...

The campaign is being mounted after a survey report disclosed a crisis of confidence in the judiciary...

More than 80 per cent of 8,400 people questioned thought that judges were out of touch and too lenient...

The British Crime Survey, carried out for the Home Office, also found very poor knowledge of what sentences are usually handed down...

Taken together, these findings suggest that sentences - and judges in particular - face a crisis of public confidence...

are thought to do a worse job than the police, the Crown Prosecution Service or prison services...

The report lays much of the blame for public ignorance on the media and says that those most likely to underestimate the use of imprisonment were poorly educated, tabloid newspaper readers...

The Home Office has therefore decided to mount its public relations campaign with approaches to newspapers and broadcasters...

The need for action was underlined by Lord Saville of Newdigate, the newly appointed law lord who is regarded as one of the most 'modern' judges...

slipping sherry and that we are totally removed from anything to do with real life. It is certainly not true.

Nor are the authors of the report the only people to blame the media for the negative image. Lord Bingham of Cornhill, the Lord Chief Justice, said: 'Certain sections of the media and some high-profile commentators have for a number of years tried hard to foster the belief that the courts impose grossly lenient penalties and that judges are out of touch.'

'It is not surprising, therefore, that when, after years of such misinformation, people are asked what they think, their answers reflect what they have been told - even at a time when judges have been sending more people to prison and for longer periods than ever before.'

Lord Bingham's views were shared by his predecessor, Lord Taylor of Gossforth, who launched a full-scale initiative to correct the public perception that judges 'live on another planet'...

Lord Taylor, however, said that it was not sensible for judges to remain silent when media reporting of trials verged at times on saturation coverage and criticism of the courts had reached new heights...

Lord Bingham has continued with press conferences but made fewer pronouncements.



Steve Fossett in Krasnodar yesterday after cold, low winds and mechanical failure forced him to abandon his round-the-world balloon flight

Balloon race still open as Fossett ditches

FROM TUNRU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK AND MICHAEL DYNES

THE race to become the first person to circumnavigate the globe in a balloon remained open yesterday after Steve Fossett was forced to abandon his attempt in Russia.

Mr Fossett was recovering after being defeated by a combination of low winds, malfunctioning equipment and a fuel shortage...

The fourth attempt at the world record by the 53-year-old commodities trader from Chicago came to an abrupt end yesterday after he was forced to land 50 miles north of Krasnodar, east of the Black Sea...

they intend to make another attempt later this month. Alan Blount, the team director at Mr Fossett's mission headquarters in St Louis, said yesterday: 'I would like to thank the Russian authorities for the help they've given us.'

Igor Yarmizin, a regional government spokesman in Krasnodar, contrasted the Russian treatment of Mr Fossett to the shooting down of

a balloon by Belarus in 1995 in which two US pilots died.

'Unlike in Belarus, no one shot [Fossett] down with rockets or helicopters,' he said.

Disappointment for Mr Fossett means that the round-the-world record is still there for the taking by any of the three teams currently planning their attempts.

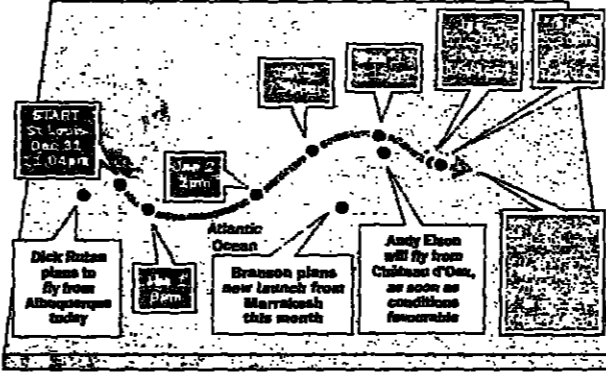
Making their final preparations for the record in their Global Hilton helium balloon, Mr Rutan and Mr Melton, told reporters: 'Everything's on track. We're all settled and heading for the launch site. Everything checks out flawlessly.'

Favourable weather conditions have also been forecast

for the planned Swiss Alps launch on Thursday. Richard Branson, who spoke to Mr Fossett a few hours before the round-the-world flight was abandoned, offered his sympathy to the American millionaire.

'We are delighted that Steve Fossett has made a safe landing, but we are very sympathetic to the technical problems he has suffered in his fourth attempt,' Mr Branson said.

'The challenge of flying a balloon around the world is at the leading edge of this type of technology. But I am sure that Steve, like the Virgin team, will not give up attempting the last major aviation record on Earth,' he added.



Akram quits

Wasim Akram has resigned as Pakistan's captain after receiving death threats from disgruntled supporters. He is willing to continue as a player. Page 44

Soros \$1bn deal

George Soros, who was blamed for the Far Eastern cash crisis, is to invest \$1 billion (£610 million) in South Korea. Page 23

Table with 2 columns: Category and Page number. Includes TV & RADIO, WEATHER, CROSSWORDS, LETTERS, OBITUARIES, LIBBY PURVES, ARTS, CHESS & BRIDGE, COURT & SOCIAL, SPORT, YOUR OWN BUSINESS, BODY & MIND.

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£500m storm repair bill will drive up insurance

By PETER FOSTER, TIM JONES AND SIMON DE BRUKELLES

MILLIONS of homeowners face increased insurance premiums as one of the worst storms of the decade left an estimated £500 million repair bill for structural damage.

Early yesterday hurricane force gusts and torrential rain stripped tiles off roofs, smashed windows and flooded houses as rivers burst their banks and waves breached sea defences.

Southern Britain initially took the worst of the weather, but the winds eased and a band of rain moved north, turning to snow in the East Midlands, parts of Scotland and north Wales.

More than 20,000 homes were still without electricity last night, and several rivers were placed on red flood alert.

In London, a young woman was airlifted to hospital 'critically injured after being struck by a falling lamp post in Cavendish Square in the West End. The 31-year-old woman stopped breathing until she was revived by paramedics in the street.'

Selina Andrews, 83, hit by a large parcel as she bought flowers at a market in Cardiff at the weekend, died in hospital early yesterday. Powys an RAF helicopter was scrambled to rescue a seriously ill woman in the early hours of yesterday morning. Farmers used torches to guide it down over flooded fields. Jane Lovell, 41,

who has cancer, was stranded in her cottage after the river Severn burst its banks. She was flown to Royal Shrewsbury Hospital where she was later said to be 'comfortable'.

On the Isle of Wight a tornado lifted a car, an lift sailing boat, and a chicken shed off the ground.

On the roads traffic slowed to crawling pace on the M54 in Shropshire and Leicester town centre, while eight cars were involved in a pile-up on the M5 which closed both carriageways around Westonspar-Mare. However, the AA reported all other roads to be moving, if only slowly, last night.

The Association of British Insurers said policyholders



'It's from the insurance company - it says we're not covered'

face a possible premium increase to help the industry to absorb the cost of repairs. Suzanne Moore of the association said: 'This is going to add to pressure for premiums to go up during the course of this year.'

In future insurance companies are likely to adjust premiums to take into account any perceived trend towards more extreme weather. She said: 'We were told the hurricane in 1987 was a once in a lifetime event, but it was quickly followed by very bad storms in January 1990 which cost the industry more than £2 billion.'

'These storms have not been on that scale, but insurance companies look at weather patterns and if they tend to be changing this is bound to mean insurers have to put premiums up.'

The association gave a warning that since the Great Storm of 1987 companies had introduced checks to prevent fraudulent claims. Up to 10 per cent of the claims which led to the £2 billion bill in 1987 are now believed to have been fraudulent.

However the National Consumer Council said the law was already stacked against consumers.

Today was expected to begin cold, with the risk of black ice in rural areas.

Forecast, page 22

Village school shut by parents' boycott

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A FAILING village school fell victim to the ultimate demonstration of parent power yesterday when not a single child returned after the holiday.

Potter Heigham Primary, near Great Yarmouth in Norfolk, seems certain to close after every family found an alternative school over Christmas in protest at poor standards.

The school's acting head, its one teacher, the secretary, caretaker and dinner lady were the only people to turn up yesterday morning. They knew a boycott had been organised, but had to attend in case some parents broke ranks.

None did. The parents said that they were angry about Norfolk County Council's inaction after the 100-year-old school for four to eight-year-olds failed its inspection in

October. They wanted a new permanent head teacher but were told no appointment could be made while the present incumbent is absent suffering from stress.

The council said: 'The parents asked for reassurances about the school which cannot be given. It is not officially shut now, but it is not operating because there are no pupils. The doors are likely to stay closed.'

The acting head has returned to her previous school and the other staff await an official decision on the school's future.

The parents decided at a series of meetings last term to send all 17 children to four other schools between two and eight miles away, even though they suspect that the council - which is reviewing the future of all its small schools - wanted Potter Heigham to close. Norfolk is providing the children with free transport.

Elaine Burnham, a former school governor who withdrew her daughter Paige, said: 'The inspectors said a key issue was management of the school. All the local authority could offer us was an acting head teacher one-and-a-half days a week and there was no guarantee of a permanent replacement. The whole thing is a mess.'

She said the offer of free transport to other schools came from Tony Jackson, the

Continued on page 2, col 3

Resolve to GET YOUR INTERNATIONAL calls CHEAPER THAN BT, starting JANUARY 1st. Includes a table of international rates and contact information for First Telecom.

Patten may challenge Tory policy again

Andrew Pierce on a rebellious voice that William Hague would rather not hear

CHRIS PATTEN signalled last night that his unexpected challenge to William Hague's policy on Europe would not be his last, despite the risk that it could reopen civil war in the Tory party.

The party leadership was dismayed and surprised by Mr Patten's decision to join 11 other heavyweights led by Michael Heseltine, Kenneth Clarke and Sir Edward Heath in a letter attacking Mr Hague's attitude to Europe.

Mr Patten is seen as a genuine leadership contender. "He is a real heavyweight. We can't understand why he has done it. Party members don't like dissidence," a Central Office strategist said last night.

But Mr Patten, who has not decided whether he wants to return to Westminster and says that he expects Mr Hague to lead the party into the next election, was privately unapologetic about the shock waves he had caused.

Lord Howe was the instigator of the letter, which was published in *The Independent*. The first seeds were sown at a dinner held by the Privy Council for the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh to mark their golden wedding anniversary.

Foot's support for unilateral disarmament in the 1980s to Mr Hague's opposition to the euro. He said if Mr Hague did not change his policy, the Tories would lose the next general election.

Drink-drivers shun warning, say the police

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

POLICE expressed disappointment last night at the number of motorists who continued to flout the law on drink-driving, despite a multi-million pound publicity campaign by the Government over the festive season.

in accidents are more likely to be above the limit. In Wiltshire, one of the worst areas during the Christmas campaign, 27 people were arrested after allegedly providing positive breath specimens, after 138 drivers were tested following accidents over a two-week period.



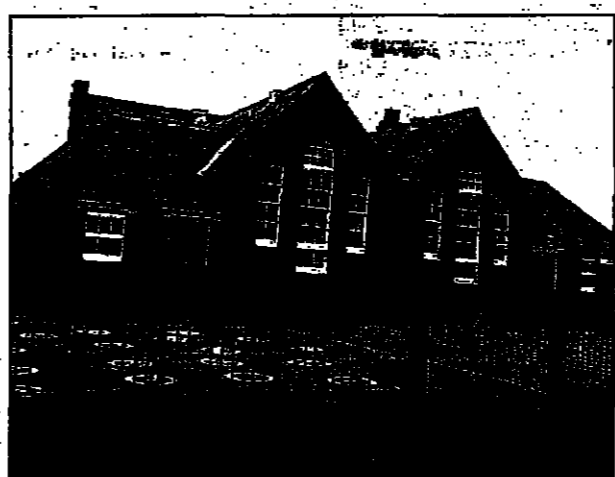
Pupils on the final day of last term at Potter Heigham Primary School, below. No pupils returned after the holidays as parents boycotted the school

Village school shut by boycott

Continued from page 1 county's deputy director of education, at a meeting with parents last term.

Mrs Burnham added: "You cannot leave your child in a school if you think she is going to suffer educationally. I think most of the village want it to be saved providing it can do its job. It is very sad, but the parents have made it easy for the local authority. We were in a Catch 22 situation."

Mr Jackson said that the council had not yet received the full Ofsted inspection report. "An oral report was given to governors and it became known in the local community. It highlighted weaknesses in the school and parents can now express their preferences," he said.



However, police in Scotland reported a drop in the proportion of positive breath tests. The Scottish figures are based on the total number of motorists breathalysed, not only those involved in accidents.

The number of Scottish drivers failing the breath tests dropped to just over 0.5 per cent — one in every 200 — down from 0.8 per cent the previous year. In total, 199,804 drivers were stopped, 1,057 tested positive, and 68 refused the test, in the period from November 23 to yesterday.

Leading article and letters, page 15

9.00 AM

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Bar acts on CPS brief complaints

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

BARRISTERS' chambers are to be monitored on a monthly basis because of concern at the huge number of Crown Prosecution Service briefs returned by barristers at the last minute.

CPS has achieved a higher conviction rate in the last three years than previously," it said. But to deal with the problem of returned briefs, it announced that from next month, all barristers' chambers will produce a monthly report detailing the service they have provided to each CPS branch, measured against an agreed standard of service.

Emergency calls jam phone lines

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of motorists were left stranded yesterday as emergency breakdown phone lines were jammed with callers.

The AA and the RAC said hundreds of their extra patrol vehicles, standing by for traditional new year car trouble, were left unused because they could not get through. Cars were abandoned because of the collapse.

Adviser's legal move delays Lady Tryon's will

By EMMA WILKINS

THE conclusion of the affairs of the late Lady Tryon has been delayed after the Probate Division of the High Court in London accepted a caveat to her will.

49 in November after developing blood poisoning after a minor operation to treat bed sores. During the last 18 months of her life, the Australian-born Lady Tryon was paralysed in a fall from the window of a rehabilitation clinic, committed to hospital over fears for her mental health, barred from the family home and divorced by her husband, Lord Tryon.

Mr Mackillop, who declined to say why he had submitted the caveat, has six months before the document automatically expires. Anyone can submit a caveat if they believe the will is wrong or unfair, or can prove existence of a subsequent will.

The document is automatically accepted as long as it is drafted correctly and a £4 fee is paid. The executors issue a formal "warning" and request the caveator to state his reasons. These are submitted to the High Court.

Anne home in Great Durnford, near Salisbury, Wiltshire had yet to be reached. Mr Mackillop, who runs a voluntary organisation called Access to Justice Network, helped Lady Tryon with legal problems before her death. It is understood that she did not anticipate her death or change her will shortly before she died.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Posturing politicians attacked by bishop

The Roman Catholic Bishop of Down and Connor, the Most Rev Patrick Walsh, rebuked Northern Ireland's posturing politicians for "petty shows of rancour, bitterness, ill-temper". He spoke at the funeral of Eddie Treanor, who was killed by loyalist gunmen on New Year's Eve in a revenge attack for the death of Billy Wright in the Maze.

Fuel bill adverts target pensioners

A government-funded advertising campaign to be launched next week will encourage pensioners to claim extra help with winter fuel bills. John Denham, the Social Security Minister, said, Pensioners on income support will be entitled to £50 and others an extra £20. Information about how to make a claim will be given on television, in newspapers and by leaflets.

Drug cautions defended

Keith Hellawell, Britain's first drugs co-ordinator, began work yesterday with a defence of the use of cautions by police for minor drug offences as an effective way of stopping reoffending. The former chief constable said they were "not a let-off". More than 50 per cent of offenders now receive cautions. "Statistics show that a very large proportion do not recommit offences over a period of years," he said.

Drivers in jam told to take train

Motorway signs advertising train services are expected to be launched this year to try to reduce traffic congestion. Electronic message boards would tell motorists of the most convenient rail service and times of trains into London. Drivers on congestion blackspots, such as the M4 into London and the M25, would be directed to the nearest town to avoid imminent traffic jams.

Dentists call for fluoride ruling

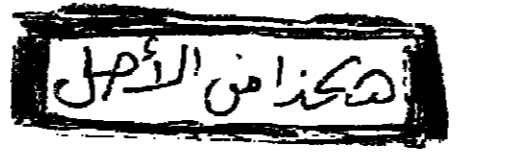
The British Dental Association is pressing the Government to force water companies to put fluoride in water if health authorities ask them to. It claims that thousands of children are suffering because companies insist they have discretion to ignore fluoridation requests. So far 60 health authorities have asked in vain for fluoridation schemes after carrying out public consultation in their areas.

Gas chief set to divorce Thai wife

The former chairman of British Gas Northern Region, Brian Clegg, of Poole, Dorset, is to divorce his Thai bride Joon, 23, after claiming that she demanded £5,000 from him. The former Bangkok waitress is now working in a Thai restaurant in London. Mr Clegg said: "I have finally run out of patience and she will not be coming back. I will start divorce proceedings in Thailand."

Grade II listing for war prefabs

Sixteen prefabricated hangars in the same road in Birmingham have been granted Grade II listing by the Government after a request by English Heritage. They were assembled between 1944 and 1948 from kits using concrete frames and metal recycled from fighter planes. The listing follows a threat by the city council to remove their chimneys and replace the roofs.



Hunting love triangle ends in stable attack

By PAUL WILKINSON

A TEN-YEAR affair between a married senior member of a hunt and a woman member he had seduced when she was a teenage stable girl ended in court yesterday when her husband was jailed for 30 months for assaulting the philandering rider.

Glen Norman, 27, attacked Michael Boyce, 55, a stable owner, after bad blood developed over Mr Boyce's long-running relationship with the girl, whom Norman had married. All three rode with the Holderness Hunt in East Yorkshire.

Mr Boyce, who boasted in the witness box "I like drink, sex and horses, but not necessarily in that order", had started the affair with Alison Norman, now 28, when she was a 17-year-old working for him as a part-time groom. Later he set up an equestrian centre with her.

Two years ago, after she became pregnant and he had driven her to hospital for an abortion, she agreed to be sterilised. When she was asked in court why he had not chosen a vasectomy, she replied: "Lots of reasons, he was convinced it would affect his performance."

Their liaison ended in October 1996 when she caught him cuddling her best friend Libby Merrylees, 39, a mother of two. A month later, when she started seeing Glen Norman, 27, the man she later married, Mr Boyce became aggressive, she said. During a hunt he had jumped off his horse and tried to attack Norman and later challenged him to a fight. Last April the animosity boiled over at the stables. Norman attacked Mr Boyce and Mrs Norman assaulted her former friend.

Yesterday at Hull Crown Court Norman was jailed for 30 months after being found guilty of wounding with intent



'I like drink, sex and horses — but not necessarily in that order'

Michael Boyce

to do grievous bodily harm during an attack which Mr Boyce said lasted 20 minutes. Mrs Norman admitted assaulting her one-time best friend and was ordered to do 150 hours community service.

Her husband was told by Recorder John Collins that he was lucky not to be facing a murder conviction. He said: "There is evidence of dramatic clarity that you gave him an almighty kick on the face and head which caused a fracture to the bone on the base of the eye." He told Mrs Norman: "You have had a history which should lead the court to treat you with exceptional leniency."

The Normans, from Long Riston in East Yorkshire, have been thrown out of the Holderness Hunt, but Mr Boyce continues to ride to hounds. Last night he said: "I've done nothing wrong."

Why shouldn't I ride out? I am a real decent guy and I was brutally attacked. I don't think the background has anything to do with what happened to me and it's not something I went looking for or wanted. I'm still with my wife and family and so far as Libby Merrylees is concerned I see her from time to time.

"What was said in court were only allegations and I don't need to answer them. The background was used as an excuse for me being beaten up."

In court Mr Boyce, who lives with his wife, Karen, in Beverley, said: "I am not making myself out to be a monk or a saint, but I did not deserve to be beaten up."

His brother, David, from Beverley, said: "He should be in the dock, not them. He's ruined the lives of these two people. His questionable deeds have taken away the future of the young Norman couple who have been left with nothing."

Mrs Norman told the court that Mr Boyce and her husband were the only men with whom she had ever made love. She described how in 1995 after her abortion she had stayed with Mrs Merrylees. She said: "I don't know whether it is relevant, but I took her for an abortion too."

The assaults happened as Norman asked Mr Boyce for a promised cheque to buy out his wife's share of their stables. He was beaten and kicked, suffering a fractured left cheekbone, two black eyes and cuts and bruises.

Mrs Merrylees said: "Alison came at me. She scratched me, pulled my hair and kicked me. She told me I was ugly."

Mr Boyce's wife told the court: "I was pouring myself a gin and tonic. Libby shouted, 'Get the police. Glen has got Mike up against the greenhouse. He's going to kill him!'"

She said Norman told her: "Don't you know he's been bonking both of them? He's been bonking half the district." Norman claimed Mr Boyce had been abusive then charged him "like a bull, following which there was a brawl".

Paul Genney, for Mrs Norman, said: "She has lost everything. She was seduced and kept as a mistress for several years, promised God knows what and received nothing. She was sterilised and now cannot have children because Boyce did not want to sully his image of a foxhunting man."



Glen and Alison Norman: banned from hunt



Them were 'r' days: Comedian Andy Wilkinson in his alter ego as Grandad Roberts at the Oldham ground

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A CULT song celebrating the joys of eating meat pies at Oldham Athletic football ground is sweeping the terraces and threatening to become the people's choice as England's unofficial World Cup anthem.

Meat pies and Sausage Rolls, sung in northern vernacular to a disco beat, went on sale at Oldham's club shop before Christmas for sale to a few diehard fans of the Second Division club. To the astonishment of club officials, supporters turned the record into an instant cult hit when the stock of more than 1,000 tapes was sold out

Comic's hymn to meat pies sweeps football terraces

within hours of going on sale.

The chorus, which was picked up by commercial radio stations, has become popular with football crowds around the country. In the original version, Andy Wilkinson, a comedian, sings in an exaggerated northern accent: "Meat pies, sausage rolls, come on Oldham give us a goal ... oooooohhh! We've got a corner." The B

side, a karaoke version, allows fans to substitute "England" for "Oldham".

The song began life as a comedy routine by Mr Wilkinson, whose stage name is Smug Roberts and who assumes various comic guises for the afternoon show on the Manchester radio station Key 103. One of his characters is Grandad Roberts, an old man who waxes lyrical about the good old days of

supporting Oldham Athletic. During one show Grandad Roberts burst spontaneously into a song about meat pies and sausage rolls.

Gordon Lawton, a marketing executive for Oldham Athletic, said: "It built up from there until it got out of hand. It was recorded on tape and played on the radio station. They got hundreds of requests."

Mr Wilkinson is scheduled

to walk on to the pitch at the next home game in character, doddering up to the centre spot before throwing away his stick and running to the penalty spot to blast a shot past the goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar.

Fans were singing the song on the terraces at the club's tie with Cardiff in the Third Round of the FA Cup on Saturday. It did not encourage the players to victory. They lost 1-0.

Geoff Lloyd, co-presenter of Key 103's Afternoon Show, said: "As a novelty record it is really catchy. It is funny as well. There is talk of an England version. It could be the next Three Lions."

Judge accused of sacking groom when she had baby

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

A SENIOR judge cut his groom's wages because she was pregnant and sacked her when the child was born, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday. Nicola McLeod claimed Sir John Chadwick, 56, a new Lord Justice of Appeal, gave her two days to leave her accommodation.

She told the hearing at Southampton that she was cruelly treated by Sir John and his wife, Diana. Miss McLeod was paid £90 a week and received free lodging when she began caring for the judge's horses at his home in East Meon, Hampshire, in June 1993.

Sir John, who as one of 31 Lords Justices of Appeal earns £124,551 a year, told the hearing that she had agreed to the cut in her wages because he had decided to sell three of his five horses and her duties would be lighter.

Miss McLeod, 26, said her job involved exercising the hunters during the season

and minor maintenance work. But last April, two months after she told Lady Chadwick that she was expecting a baby, her wages were cut to £25 a week, she said. "Mrs Chadwick said they did not want to pay the full wages because she could not bear to see me out in the yard and not warranting the full wage."

In August she gave birth prematurely to a son, Callum, during a visit to her parents' home in Inverness. Miss McLeod said Lady Chadwick telephoned her three weeks later and said there would be no job when she returned because Sir John was selling his horses. Her wages were stopped, she said.

In September, her baby left hospital and she returned to Hampshire. Lady Chadwick asked her to leave by the weekend, she said.

Sir John, who was a prosecutor in the Guinness fraud trial in 1991, told the hearing: "We agreed her wages would be reduced to £25 a week because of the little

work she would be doing for us. She was content with this arrangement."

His new appointment meant he would spend the week in London, leaving less time to hunt. He would sell his remaining hunters and give up riding with the Hursley and Hambledon Hunt, of which he was chairman. "The financial implications of having to live in London and buy a flat made it difficult to justify keeping a groom and horses," he said. There was no longer a job for Miss McLeod and he sent her a £400 redundancy cheque.

Miss Macleod, who is engaged to the child's father, is claiming deduction from wages, unfair dismissal and sexual discrimination. Under cross-examination by Sir John, who is representing himself, she admitted that she had not complained at the time. "I was going to leave it, but you treated me so cruelly it was disgusting."

The tribunal will give its verdict at a later date.



Nicola McLeod



Sir John Chadwick

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ROBIN MAYES

Brown launches £3.5bn 'crusade' for young jobless

By Polly Newton and Mark Henderson

GORDON BROWN yesterday promised a "national crusade" to end unemployment as the Government launched its £3.5 billion New Deal for jobless young people.

The Chancellor was speaking as 12 pilot projects began around the country to guarantee work or training for those aged 18-25 who have been unemployed for at least six months.

Claimants of jobseeker's allowance will lose their benefits if they refuse to take a job, a place in full-time training or education or a place on an environmental task force. From April, the rules will apply nationwide.

Mr Brown, who was in Dundee, one of the pilot areas, appealed to employers to take part in the Welfare to Work programme. They will be paid £60 a week for up to 26 weeks towards recruiting and employing a jobless person.

Mr Brown said: "I want all of you to feel part of what I believe is a national crusade... The Government believes in helping thousands more from welfare to work in the years to come as part of the long haul towards our goal of full employment."

The Chancellor confirmed that the New Deal would be extended to the long-term jobless aged over 25. He is expected to announce in the Budget that the expansion will be funded with £250 million from the windfall tax on the privatised utilities. The Government has already

pledged that, from June, subsidised employment will be offered to people of any age who have been out of work for more than two years. They will also have access to 10,000 study and training places.

Mr Brown rejected criticism from the Tories that a drop in the number of young unemployed had reduced the need for the New Deal. David Willetts, the Shadow Employment spokesman, said the figure had fallen from 250,000 to 120,000 since Labour pledged to set up the Welfare to Work scheme.

"What we doubt is this programme's imbalance between putting £3.5 billion—90 per cent of the money—towards the young people when they are only putting a relatively small amount to the middle-aged and long-term unemployed, where the problem lies."

But Mr Brown told Radio 4's *World at One*: "There is a huge problem. In some communities up to 25 per cent of the young people do not have jobs and unemployment is so endemic that we are dealing with the third generations of families."

The scheme was greeted with enthusiasm by employers, advisers and the young jobless at the launch of one of the pilot schemes in Lambeth, South London yesterday. Sandra Parkes, 22, who has been unemployed for six months since quitting a nursing and social work degree at South Bank University because of

financial problems, said she hoped the New Deal would allow her to complete her education and find a job.

She said: "It sounds better than anything on offer before, though we will have to wait and see how it works in practice. It seems very sensible to offer people training and work at the same time. It is encouraging that people like me will get more personalised advice and I hope it will be successful."

Nigel Cotton, personnel director at the ADI Group, which provides security at airports, said his company hoped to take on 24 trainees from Lambeth through the scheme to work at Heathrow. ADI intends to use the £60 subsidy to run free transport from Central London to the airport.

"We have the vacancies, and we are confident that this programme is going to provide us with motivated people," he said. "We want to keep them on when the subsidy stops, and we hope that once they are established with a good wage they will not be so constrained by transport problems."

Arun Arul, a personal adviser at Brinxton Jobcentre, said the New Deal meant a new role for jobcentres. "We used to act a bit like benefits policemen, but this is more positive," he said. "There is a big carrot here, and not much of a stick. People want work, and this will help them into it in a constructive way."



Helping hand: Andrew Smith, the Employment Minister, shows Sandra Parkes the Brinxton Jobcentre computer job charts at the launch yesterday.

Refusal will mean loss of benefits

By Mark Henderson

THE Government's New Deal for the young unemployed, which began in 12 pilot areas yesterday, will offer subsidised jobs, paid voluntary work or further education to 18 to 24-year-olds out of work for six months.

All those in the age group who have claimed the jobseeker's allowance for six months will be asked to see a "Gateway" adviser at their jobcentre for counselling about career prospects and ambitions and guidance on how

the programme can best help. Independent careers advice will also be on offer and those with poor literacy or numeracy skills will be able to spend time improving them before moving on to one of the scheme's four options.

The unemployed young people can choose between a job with an employer, subsidised for six months, a six-month place on the Government's Environmental Taskforce, six months in the voluntary sector or full-time education for up to a year. Under each of the working options, participants

must spend at least one day a week on day-release working towards a qualification.

Those who choose voluntary or environmental work will receive an allowance equivalent to their jobseeker's allowance, plus a £15.38 bonus each week and the same entitlement to other benefits as before. Those in full-time education get allowances worth their old benefits, with a £200 supplement.

Anybody who refuses a place under the New Deal will lose all benefits for

two weeks. A second refusal means no benefits for the next four weeks. Those pleading special hardship, such as a pregnant partner, have benefits cut by 40 per cent.

The £3.5 billion cost will be funded from the windfall tax on the privatised utilities in July's budget. More than 9,000 employers have already agreed to take on trainees under the programme. Each will receive £60 a week for every youngster taken on, as well as a £750 per head contribution to training costs.

Stalker's admission spares victim

By Lin Jenkins

A DENTAL nurse tormented by a stalker was spared the ordeal of giving evidence for a second time when he changed his plea to guilty yesterday at his trial.

Clarence Morris had his conviction for causing actual bodily harm quashed by the Court of Appeal in October on the ground that the psycholog-

ical damage inflicted amounted to physical injury to 21-year-old Perry Southall, from East London. The judge ordered a retrial of Morris, a convicted rapist with 43 previous convictions, "with some regret" on the ground that an adjournment to seek psychiatric evidence on the nature of the victim's injury had been wrongly refused.

At Southwark Crown Court

Miss Southall said Morris, 38, from Poplar, East London, left her in fear of her life in the eight months after he met her at the dental surgery in Whitechapel where she worked.

On two occasions he confronted her with a wallpaper scraper and would repeatedly bang on the window of the practice declaring his love for her at the top of his voice. In 200 separate incidents he also

sent her suggestive letters and unwelcome gifts, including underwear and champagne. The ordeal left her unable to sleep and suffering from pains in her joints and stomach cramps. She told the original trial that she became ill-judged and irritable.

Judge Peter Fingert ordered fresh psychiatric reports and will sentence Morris on February 13.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Radioactive gas tests at more homes

The Government is offering radon tests to about 52,000 more households in a campaign to cut the risk of lung cancer. The free tests will be carried out mostly in the West Country, Yorkshire, the North East and Lancashire, where there is a greater than 5 per cent chance of homes being above the recommended action level. Where necessary, houses can be protected against the naturally occurring radioactive gas.

Mother found

Police have traced a young mother who abandoned a five-month-old girl in a woman's toilet at Chase Farm Hospital, Enfield, North London. The baby will stay at the hospital while child protection officers and the local council are consulted.

DNA appeal won

One of four men convicted of killing a badger in the first prosecution of its kind using DNA profiling won an appeal against the verdict. Judge James Orrell, sitting at Derby Crown Court, said he was satisfied that Gary Shaw, 29, was only a spectator.

Speed ban

Steven Sanderson, 33, of Oswaldtwistle, Lancashire, who tests sports cars for the Blackpool-based company TVR, was banned from driving for a week and fined £220 by Lytham St Anne's magistrates for speeding at 105mph in his own car.

CORRECTION

Concessionary coal beneficiaries affected by new arrangements (report, December 23), who number about 55,000, can choose alternative fuels to fulfil their entitlements, and there will be no cost to pensioners and widows. The benchmark will be premium Welsh anthracite, not imports from Korea and China.

Jilted husband shot wife at golf match

By Richard Duce

A VENGEFUL husband lay in wait for his wife as she teed off during a round of golf and opened fire with a shotgun because she had told him that their marriage was over.

Godfrey Jarrett, 58, was jailed for eight years yesterday after admitting attempted murder. His estranged wife, Julia, said the sentence was too lenient. She still suffers from post-traumatic stress and has hundreds of pellets embedded in her body after the shooting at the 17th fairway at Market Drayton golf club, in Shropshire.

Stafford Crown Court was told that Jarrett, of Whitchurch, Shropshire, had "flipped" when his third wife told him their marriage was over. Nicholas Webb, for the prosecution, said that he threatened to burn down their home, but instead borrowed a 12-bore shotgun from a local farmer and hid in bushes as his wife played with two friends during a Ladies' Day tournament last March.

Mr Webb said: "He drove his car along the dirt track and parked alongside the 17th

fairway, in an isolated, secluded spot. He armed himself with the shotgun and positioned himself in a wooded area away from the tee.

"Mrs Jarrett was the last of the party to drive off. Almost as soon as she did, there was a loud crack, and she felt an enormous pain in her head. There was a second shot and she was hit in the head and shoulder."

Mrs Jarrett fell to the ground and the two other women saw Jarrett, who



Jarrett: he lay in wait at the 17th fairway.

looked "possessed", standing 16-18 yards away with the shotgun.

They fled, and he reloaded the shotgun, firing again at his wife, who pretended to be dead. Mrs Jarrett was taken to hospital where surgeons attended to wounds to her face, neck, legs and chest.

Patrick Harrington, in mitigation, said that Jarrett, a former corn merchant, was of previous good character and that the incident had occurred in a "moment of madness". He did not originally intend to injure his wife, but to end his own life.

However, Judge Clive Taylor, QC, told Jarrett: "This is a case which involved more premeditation than most. You deliberately went down the lane, and you deliberately discharged the gun three times."

Afterwards, Mrs Jarrett, supported by her husband's second wife, Sue Jarrett, condemned the sentence. She said: "I am very disappointed by the length of the sentence. I think it should have been a lot longer."

Drunken driver could not recall killing motorcyclist

A DRUNKEN motorist who failing to notice that he had killed a motorcyclist, and who drove another six miles to a pub with his airbag inflated, was jailed yesterday.

Peter Moorman, 54, continued his journey with one wheel of his BMW down to the rim after colliding head-on with the 28-year-old courier. He was arrested while drinking a pint of beer and was found to be more than 3 1/2 times over the drink-drive limit.

He could remember nothing of hitting Clive Bennett on the A4141 at Wroxall, War-

wickshire, in April. Makhan Shoker, for the prosecution, told Warwick Crown Court that Moorman, a self-employed insurance broker and manager of his own property management company, was "very nearly blind drunk".

Moorman, of Shirley, Birmingham, was seen driving erratically before the accident, weaving from lane to lane. A van driver became so concerned that he overtook the businessman and forced him to stop. Mr Shoker said: "That driver went to Mr Moorman and advised him to stop and take a rest. The defendant

agreed but instead of stopping, carried on driving in the same manner."

Moorman struck Mr Bennett, of Pipelaves, Birmingham, as he approached a left-hand bend, killing the father of two instantly. His body was dragged along underneath the car, the front offside tyre was deflated and the airbag activated. The impact also left brake fluid leaking from the car.

Moorman, who admitted causing death by dangerous driving and driving with excess alcohol, was jailed for 4 1/2 years. (PA News)

First time unlucky for rugby novice, 50

By Simon De Bruxelles

A MAN who made his rugby debut at the age of 50 said yesterday that the game would be his last after his team lost by a record 135 points to nil.

John McGuire was asked to turn out for the Welsh league club Millford Haven when they realised they were a man short for a tough fixture. Mr McGuire had the misfortune to have a pair of boots handy for his more usual role providing first aid to injured players.

He said: "I'd never played before and after that I won't be playing again. The team was short and I didn't want to let the boys down. I managed to make one

tackle but the rest of the afternoon I seemed to be face down in the mud."

The father-of-four is treasurer of Millford Haven, who play in Division Six of the Welsh Rugby Union National League. The club had struggled to rustle up a side for the 400-mile round trip to Pwllheli in North Wales. Mr McGuire, an insurance agent, said: "We did a head count on the bus and there were 15, including me."

"The captain told me I would have to play even though I'd never touched a rugby ball before in my life."

Mr McGuire was drafted in to play on the left wing, while his son Anthony, 21, played on the right. Pwllheli, the league

leaders, scored 21 tries, including four by 23-year-old New Zealander Carl Scrimgeour, Mr McGuire's opposite number. All but two of their players scored and the victory was a league record.


Mr McGuire, a former soccer referee, said: "My biggest worry was telling the wife when we got home. She thought I was mad to play."

Annette McGuire, 45, said: "I told him he's daft, but I'm just glad he survived without a serious injury."

John Hughes, chairman of Millford Haven RFC, said: "We were grateful to John for turning out but hopefully we won't be requiring his services as a player again."

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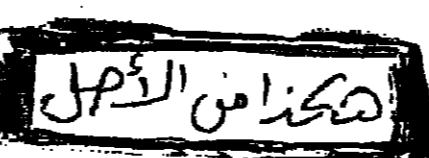


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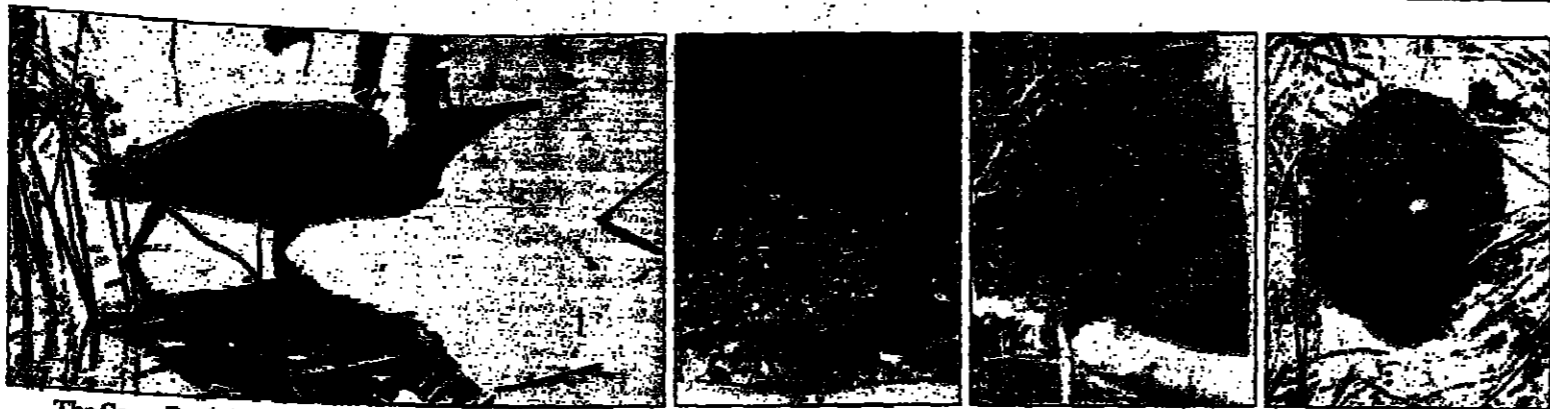
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Big business wild in a...

National park win acclaim for cleanliness



The Co-op Bank is sponsoring the bittern; Glaxo Wellcome the medicinal leech; Norsk Hydro the water vole; and Lord Montagu the dung beetle

Big business shuns call of wild in animal rescue flop

Corporate sponsors are refusing to sign up for action plans to save rare species, reports Nick Nuttall

THE pockets of big business may seem deep enough if you are the Royal Shakespeare Company or the Hayward Gallery. But not if you are the violet click beetle, the song thrush or the Killarney fern. A government plan to rescue hundreds of rare and endangered plant and animal species by securing sponsorship from business is proving to be an embarrassing flop. An official report shows that, despite exhortations by ministers and the best efforts of green groups, few companies have been willing to pay for the carefully costed action plans devised under its Biodiversity Challenge.

Even the otter and the red squirrel, which were thought to have enormous corporate appeal, have failed to win support. Only six corporate backers covering seven species have put up cash, despite claims by Michael Meacher, Minister for the Environment, in June that 20 companies were poised to sign up.

An action plan to safeguard the skylark, a farmland and moorland bird in serious decline, is being funded by Tesco for £100,000 a year. ICI is helping to preserve the pearl-bordered fritillary and the large blue butterfly at a cost of £65,000 a year. Norsk Hydro, the Norwegian chemical and petroleum conglomerate, is partly funding the £50,000 recovery plan for the water vole.

The bittern action plan has secured £10,000 of support from the Co-op Bank. Glaxo Wellcome is to spend £18,000 on the medicinal leech; and Lord Montagu of Beauchamp is the backer for the saving of the dung beetle, at between £3,000 and £4,000 a year.

Lord Montagu was unavailable for comment yesterday. But it is understood that his support for the dung beetle followed a meeting with John Gummer, the former Environment Secretary, who launched the Biodiversity Challenge.

There are more than 100 species without corporate white knights, including the ribbon-leaved water plantain, confined to two sites in Hereford & Worcester and Lincolnshire; the shrill carder bee, down to just seven sites in the South and East; the dormouse, which has undergone

serious decline; the Scottish crossbill, Britain's only endemic bird; and the depressed river mussel.

Most of the rescue packages cost just a few thousand pounds a year, which provides habitat restoration, site protection and reintroductions at former strongholds.

Barbara Young, chief executive of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said yesterday that the "cap-in-hand" approach to "cap-in-hand" approach to sponsors was causing delays in meeting wildlife protection targets and adding to the possibility of extinction for some species.

Simon Lyster, director-general of the Wildlife Trusts, which represents county wildlife groups, said: "I am sure many companies do not even know what the word biodiversity means. I am also not convinced that enough of them privately really care."

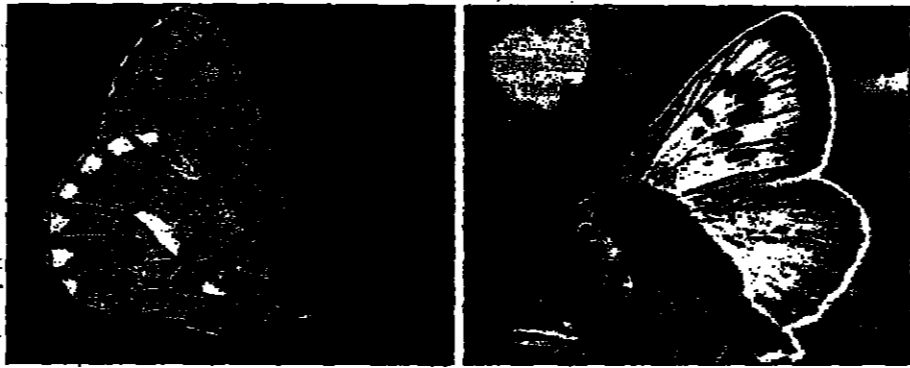
The trusts are leading the £3 million otter recovery programme and have raised £250,000 so far. Dr Lyster said efforts had been hampered by corporate jealousy. "We had one company, prepared to put up a substantial amount. But they were vetoed by the one which has put up the £250,000," he said.

Tony Hutson, of the Bat Conservation Trust, which has been trying to win backing for the pipistrelle bat, said: "There have been more action plans than genuine action."

The two-year-old biodiversity challenge was designed to help Britain to meet its commitments under the biodiversity convention signed by John Major at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. The Government, wildlife groups, farmers and landowners, helped to draw up a list of 110 species in Britain in need of urgent help.

Angela Eagle, a junior Environment Minister, last night called for more education to raise public awareness of the issues. Over the next few months a further 250 action plans covering a range of insects, plants and fungi to birds and mammals, will be unveiled.

A spokesman for the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions said yesterday that it hoped to announce that more species had secured backing soon.



ICI has put up £65,000 a year to pay for an action plan for the pearl-bordered fritillary and large blue butterfly, while Tesco is contributing £100,000 a year for the skylark



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National parks win acclaim for cleanliness

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

NATIONAL PARKS are praised today for remaining largely free of litter despite being visited by tens of millions of people every year.

A survey by the Tidy Britain Group awards top marks for cleanliness to footpaths but is less impressed by the state of car parks and lay-bys, which are much more rubbish-strewn than other areas.

Northumberland National Park is rated the cleanest of the eleven parks in England and Wales (there is none in Scotland), with a score of 81 out of 100 points. Snowdonia, the lowest-scoring park, does relatively well with 67 points. The average score is 72.

Cigarette ends and matches are the most common types of litter (present at 69 per cent of sites), followed by sweet wrappers (58 per cent), drink containers (58 per cent) and dog faeces (51 per cent). Graffiti, fly-posting and fly-tipping are a problem at only 1 per cent of sites. Footpaths are given a cleanliness rating ranging from 72 points in the Peak District to 92 in Northumberland, but lay-bys are marked by dirtier, scoring only 60 on the North York Moors and 72 in Northumberland, again the best performer.

Professor Graham Ash-

worth, director-general of the Tidy Britain Group, said: "The national parks are highly popular with tourists, so the fact that they are on the whole free of litter is excellent news. Authorities responsible for cleaning the parks should be congratulated."

The cleanliness scores were as follows: Northumberland (81 points), Exmoor (76), Yorkshire Dales (76), North York Moors (73), Pembrokeshire (73), Broads (71), Lake District (71), Peak District (71), Dartmoor (70), Brecon Beacons (68) and Snowdonia (67).

Professor Ashworth said the research showed that Britain was gradually becoming a cleaner place, though there was no room for complacency as rural areas outside national parks were seriously disfigured by litter.

A Tidy Britain Group survey of the 58 cities in Britain, published in March last year, showed that only eight points separated the cleanest city, Darwin (68 points), from the dirtiest, Aberdeen (60). This was a significant improvement on previous surveys.

The group also reported an improvement in beach cleanliness last year, awarding a record number of 224 Seaside Awards, up from 203 in 1996.

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Thousands fail to get through on Althorp hotline

Joanna Bale reports on the rush for Diana tickets

TENS of thousands of people were disappointed after failing to get through to a telephone line that opened yesterday to take bookings to visit Althorp Park, where Diana, Princess of Wales, is buried.

In the first four hours, 2,500 managed to get through, but an estimated 22,000 failed. Callers were meant to hear a recorded message, but most got either the engaged tone or a continuous tone that gave the impression that the line did not exist. British Telecom operators, inundated with queries about whether there was a fault with the line, told customers: "It's very, very busy. You will have to keep trying."

Others trying to get through to the number heard a BT message saying: "We are sor-

ry, there is currently a high demand for this destination. Please try later."

A Nottingham-based ticket agency, Way Ahead, is staffing the 220 lines 24 hours a day. With 625 calls being taken every hour and a limit of six

It's been very busy. I would expect tickets to sell out pretty quickly

tickets per person, it is estimated that the 152,500 tickets available will be sold out in 40 hours — by 1am tomorrow.

Way Ahead is one of the leading ticket agencies in Britain and normally handles sales for concerts by pop performers such as Oasis and Sir Elton John. One worker

said: "It's very busy. People have been calling from all over the world. The way things are going, I would expect tickets to sell out pretty quickly."

The telephone company which administers the lines, Diamond Cable Communications, said that 11,000 call attempts had been made between 11am and 1pm yesterday. A spokeswoman said: "It has been extremely busy, but we are confident that our technology will prevent telephone exchanges crashing."

The interest in tickets for Althorp is low compared to the demand for tickets to pop concerts by bands such as Oasis. When 8,000 tickets for three Oasis concerts went on sale last month in Dublin, 500,000 calls were made in three hours. The credit card



Visitors at Althorp yesterday. Applicants to see the island where Diana, Princess of Wales, is buried have inundated 220 telephone lines

hotline caused three city telephone exchanges to crash. In May, the Nottingham telephone exchange broke down when Oasis sold tickets for concerts at Loch Lomond and Knebworth Park, in Hertfordshire.

Tickets allowing people into the grounds of Althorp cost £9.50 for adults, £7 for senior citizens and £5 for children. Profits will be donated to the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund.

In an effort to beat ticket touts, each ticket will bear the name of the purchaser, but experts believe this will not prevent them from being sold at many times their face value on the black market. Visitors

will be able to view the island where the Princess is buried, although they will not be allowed to set foot on it.

An old stable block in the grounds is being converted into a museum, celebrating the Princess's life, and a restaurant, at a cost of £2 million. The line — 01604 592020 —

is the only number that the public can ring to make bookings. A Website on Althorp House has also been set up. The address is: <http://www.althorp-house.co.uk>

Althorp will open to the public from July 1 — the Princess's birthday — until August 30. Entry will be restricted to those who have

bought tickets in advance. Only 2,500 will be allowed in daily. The anniversary of her death, August 31, will be preserved as a quiet family day. Earl Spencer announced in October that he would open Althorp to the public in the aftermath of the unprecedented outpouring of grief that followed the Princess's death.

Publicans bid to open all hours for millennium

By DANIEL MCGRODY

PUBS may stay open for eight days around the clock to see in the millennium if landlords get their way.

Magistrates and the police may have other ideas, but publicans think Britons have the right to enjoy the country's greatest collective hangover with 24-hour opening from Christmas Eve, 1999, to New Year's Day, 2000.

Their scheme is being considered by police and politicians as the Home Office starts to draw up plans for the country's biggest party. Senior police officers are taking soundings about the idea. A Home Office spokesman said: "We are casting the net wide because it is a very important event."

For those worried about possible trouble, the trade points to the success of extending licensing hours in many cities during the Euro 96 football tournament. A spokesman for the Brewers and Licensed Retailers Association said: "Pubs will be in the forefront of partying. We hope the celebrations will take place without restrictive licensing."

Jim Suggitt, the chairman of the Federation of Licensed Victuallers Association, added: "I have always been in favour of licenses being legitimately allowed to open the hours that suits the needs of their trade. The millennium celebra-

tions are already on our agenda. I would certainly be keen to see a blanket approach being taken to extended trading throughout England and Wales to avoid boundary-hopping."

A six-month consultation period will give interested parties a chance to give their views on the proposals.

The campaign for non-stop opening has overtaken an earlier suggestion among many in the trade to allow pubs to open from 9am to midnight during the last week of 1999. Some publicans believe even extended opening will be too restrictive.

Nich Bish, secretary of the Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers, which represents 10,000 pubs, said: "We will be asking members for their views, but we would be in favour of flexibility to mark such a one-off occasion."

A spokesman for the Association of Chief Police Officers said: "We are currently contacting the 43 chief constables of England and Wales to seek their opinions. But one view is that whatever decision is made should, for policing purposes, be one which applies nationally."

A spokesman for the Magistrates' Association said: "Factors like a pub's location, the availability of public transport and whether food is available will all be taken into account."

Call to put faith at heart of dome

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A SENIOR bishop called yesterday for religion to be at the heart of the £750 million Millennium Dome.

The Right Rev Richard Harries, Bishop of Oxford, called on the Government and the New Millennium Experience Company to remember that the millennium was primarily a celebration of the birth of Christ.

He said on BBC Radio 4's *World at One*: "The Churches will certainly be very disappointed if the element of Christian celebration is not significantly present, if it is marginalised in any way. The millennium is, after all, first and foremost a Christian celebration."

Church leaders are particularly concerned that the Government shows no signs of incorporating a two-minute silence for reflection and meditation into the official celebrations, in spite of repeated requests from the Churches. They are increasingly concerned that plans for the

Millennium Dome appear to be almost wholly secular. Their fears deepened after Peter Mandelson, Minister Without Portfolio, disclosed plans to model the dome centrepiece on the Disney *Magic Kingdom* theme park in Florida.

Bishop Harries said: "Obviously the Christian Churches recognise that the whole of society... will want to share in the millennium, and the Churches are not going to be mean-minded about people having a lot of secular fun. But we want to ensure the Christian dimension."

The New Millennium Experience Company said it had every intention of including religion in the dome. "We have always said that the millennium experience will have a religious and spiritual dimension. We have been involved with a number of religious groups, discussing how to take that forward."

Letters, page 15

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Boys sidelined by 'apartheid in education'

MINISTERS are perpetuating "educational apartheid" in schools by ignoring the needs of Afro-Caribbean boys, the chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality said yesterday.

On the day that the Government promised a drive to raise the achievement of all boys, Sir Herman Ouseley demanded extra measures for ethnic minorities. Everything from history to hairdressing should move away from the "values and culture of the white middle class" reflected in the national curriculum, he said.

Sir Herman used his presidential address at the North of England Education Conference to warn of the danger of a "national crisis" in schools. He called for the impending review of the national curriculum to take more account of different cultural backgrounds and accused teacher-training departments of rejecting suitable black candidates, who could have been role models.

In 1995, 39 out of 85 colleges which received applications from black Caribbeans did not award a single place. Overall, black Caribbeans suffered a greater rejection rate than their white counterparts, Sir Herman urged the Teacher Training Agency to withdraw funding from colleges that did not implement equal opportunities policies.

Urging ministers to move away from the cultural limitations of the curriculum, Sir Herman said that subjects should embrace the multiplicity of the modern world — "its lack of simple certainty and its enthralling complexity and contradictions".

Middle-class, white values are said to be failing Afro-Caribbeans, John O'Leary reports

Although the Department for Education and Employment does not collect examination data for different ethnic groups, surveys consistently show Afro-Caribbean boys with the worst GCSE results. They are six times more likely to be expelled than pupils from other racial groups.

Sir Herman told the conference in Bradford that Afro-Caribbean boys suffered from racial stereotyping by their teachers and from the inability of schools to recognise or deal with racial harassment. Current proposals risked concentrating them into "sink schools", undermining the Government's declared goal of a united and cohesive society.

The Prime Minister's promise to raise standards could not be achieved by treating all children the same, Sir Herman said. The current "race neutral" policies would leave a growing and dangerous racial divide even if they succeeded

generally. Although there were hopeful signs that the Government was addressing educational disadvantage, a "veil of silence" shrouded issues of race. Britain was assumed to be a "solid homogeneous block" in which those who did not fit the assumed profile were an inconvenience, or even a threat.

Research by academics at London University's Institute of Education found a widening gap between ethnic groups at GCSE. Asian children had improved their results markedly since the start of the decade, but black Caribbean boys were falling further behind their peers.

Ministers are waiting for recommendations from a working group on ethnic comparisons before deciding on further action. Measures outlined yesterday by Stephen Byers, the School Standards Minister, addressed underachievement by boys of all races. Mr Byers told an international conference in Manchester that he hoped that the creation of a new grade of highly paid teacher would attract more men into the profession, especially in primary schools.

"Boys need role models, but we are seeing an increasing number of men refusing to enter the teaching profession," said Mr Byers. "We need to look carefully at the career structure. We don't value and don't reward well enough excellent classroom teaching."

Libby Purves, page 14



Natalie Basnett since the operation: the swelling in her cheek is reducing daily

Operation girl faces life with confidence

By PAUL WILKINSON

A MOTHER thanked the people of her home town yesterday after they had raised £40,000 in under 13 weeks for an operation to correct her daughter's facial disfigurement.

Twelve-year-old Natalie Basnett was born with a build-up of fluid that created a swelling of her left cheek. The condition, a cystic hygroma, left her embarrassed by such playground taunts as "hamster face" and "fatly cheek".

Yesterday, as Natalie started a new term, her mother, Sheridan, said: "I can't thank the people of Hartlepool enough for what they did."

Specialists told Mrs Basnett that the condition could be cured, but the operation was not available on the NHS. She found a surgeon based in America who could do it but the cost would be £40,000.

She immediately launched a public appeal on Teeside.

"The response was amazing, the phone rang constantly with people offering support," she said. "People held sponsored golf tournaments, cricket tournaments, a darts marathon, raffles, even a sponsored pig run, where the staff at a local butcher's carried a pig eight miles, then auctioned it off at the end."

Eight months after Natalie was born, her mother found a small, purple, ulcer-like swelling inside her mouth. As she got older the condition worsened.

When Mrs Basnett read a newspaper cutting about how the surgeon, Ian Jackson, had rebuilt the face of a Peruvian orphan, she traced his personal assistant in Britain and arranged a consultation with Professor Jackson in London.



The original condition led to cruel taunts

She said: "He was very positive, but he didn't hide anything from us. He stood Natalie up and said he was going to cut from the top of her head, behind her ear and under her jaw, then peel the skin back, like a banana. Natalie went white and I was horrified, but he said we had to understand exactly what it entailed. We both felt very confident in him."

Natalie had the operation at a London hospital four weeks ago. The pain caused by the swelling has gone and the swelling is reducing by the day. She said: "I'm so happy." Her mother added: "They explained it would take seven months to disappear, so now Natalie can't keep away from the mirror."

Some graduates to start on £20,000

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

ONE in ten university students who graduate this summer will be able to get a salary of at least £20,000, employers forecast yesterday. Job opportunities for graduates rose by 13.1 per cent last year and were likely to rise a further 18.5 per cent this summer, the Association of Graduate Recruiters said.

Its annual survey showed that the average starting salary in 1997 was £15,500, up 6.4 per cent on the previous year. Roly Cockman, chief executive of the association, which represents more than 500 major graduate employers, including BT, Coopers & Lybrand, Andersen Consulting, Marks & Spencer, ICI, Boots, and ICL, said the figures backed government reassurances that higher education re-

mained worthwhile despite the introduction of £1,000 course fees this autumn, and the phasing out of grants.

He said: "Your chances are very much better if you are a graduate than if you are not, in spite of the introduction of fees, it is still a good investment."

"This would be quite a strong message that students ought not to be put off by fees." Graduate recruiters were far more likely to offer high starting salaries than "golden hellos", such as paying off university debts, he said.

There were, however, growing signs that top companies were having difficulty finding satisfactory recruits. The difference from the last boom market for graduates ten years ago, said Mr

Cockman, was that employers were far more selective. His advice for any student wanting to join the £20,000 league this summer was "get involved in things at university apart from academic study".

The AGR members surveyed for 1997 reported 14,620 vacancies, with 14,032 filled three months after graduation. The most difficult areas to recruit were in science, engineering and information technology.

Progression for recent graduates has kept pace with the rapid rises in starting salaries. Graduates from 1996, who started on an average of £14,774, were now earning an average of £17,000. Recruits from 1994, who started on £13,500, were now on £21,000.

Death-crash bus driver spared jail

FROM SUSAN BELL IN ALBERTVILLE

THE British driver of a coach that crashed in the Alps, killing three children and injuring 25, was found guilty of involuntary homicide by a French court yesterday.

James Shaw, 43, was fined Fr12,000 (£1,200). He escaped the two months suspended sentence demanded by the prosecutor, who had also asked for a fine of Fr11,000 at a hearing on December 16.

Shaw told that hearing that he had been driving safely and could not explain why his coach swerved off a narrow mountain road near Moutiers,

plunging into a 70ft ravine on July 7 last year.

Jean-Pierre Beroud, the presiding judge, told the court at Albertville in the Savoy region that Shaw would be fined Fr10,000 for involuntary homicide caused while driving and Fr2,000 for failing to control the speed of his vehicle. Neither Shaw nor the families of the victims were in court to hear the verdict.

Marie-Christine Cartier, for Shaw, of Droylsden, near Manchester, said it was unlikely that he would appeal. She said the verdict showed

that the court did not believe he had committed any serious error while driving the coach, which had been rented from a French company after the school's bus broke down.

Maurice Bedecher, representing the families of the children who died, said: "This was a very moderate penalty. It is saying that there was an error on the part of the driver. If the court had let him off completely, I think it would have been very hard for the families to cope with."

M Bedecher said that they had made no demands for a

stiff sentence or for compensation from Shaw. Nicole Moore, 16, was killed instantly and Robert Boardman and Keith Ridding, both 14, died later in hospital. Other pupils suffered serious injuries and Shaw broke several ribs.

The pupils came from St James's Church of England School, Bolton. Many pupils and staff have expressed their support for Shaw, who disappeared for two days shortly after the accident. He has given up his job, saying that he has been unable to drive a coach since.



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Caribbean with citiz

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Caribbean cashes in with citizenship sale

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

CARIBBEAN countries, best known for their beach resorts and offshore finance industry, have found a new way to make money as they struggle to survive in a region that is starved of foreign aid and losing commercially to larger trading nations.

For as little as \$50,000 (£31,000) in cash, tiny islands such as Dominica — population 72,000 — are selling passports and lifetime citizenship to virtually allcomers. In the last year it has sold 68 passports for \$3.5 million, to a wide range of new nationality seekers from the former Soviet Union, China and Libya.

It will cost a bit more in the twin-island nation of St Kitts and Nevis — population 42,000 — where the price rose recently from \$100,000 to \$250,000, but that includes a piece of property. The new "Citizenship by Investment" law requires that amount as a minimum "real estate investment" to get a new nationality. All over the West Indies the

islands are following suit. The passports can be found in advertisements tucked away in the "Business & Personal" pages of *The Economist* magazine, next to discreet offshore companies and trusts. "Secrets Revealed," reads one... ad, which lures potential buyers with these tantalising words: "A second passport can save your life."

Last month the Belize Government placed a typical "citizenship and passport" advertisement offering "Confidential Service... Fully Legal Programme" from only \$45,000.

| THE PRICE OF A PASSPORT | |
|--|-----------|
| Belize | \$45,000 |
| St Kitts and Nevis (includes property) | \$250,000 |
| Dominica | \$50,000 |

Fishy as it sounds, the governments offer a straightforward explanation. "It's simple: our governments need the income," said Joseph Escher, a Swiss-born offshore financial analyst who heads the new International Financial Centre for St Kitts and Nevis. "The time when you could go and beg for money from England or the United States is gone. We've got to have some kind of income to live on."

Governments say they cannot guarantee that the buyer's intention in acquiring a second nationality is legitimate, but Mr Escher and others in the offshore industry say there are many fair reasons for getting one.

These days most nations permit dual citizenship, and Mr Escher said most people used a second nationality as a way legally to reduce or avoid taxes in the country where they officially resided.

In Dominica, wealthy Russian businessmen have been snapping up passports — in

most cases, analysts say, to keep their global movements and investments secret from immigration officials in Russia.

Since Dominica put its nationality up for sale a year ago, nearly half of its new citizens are from the former Soviet Union. Nearly two dozen others are from mainland China or Taiwan. Another dozen are Americans, with the remainder from Libya, Iran, Canada or Cuba.

Wealthy Russians, increasingly fearful of mafia infiltration of the Government, worry that their private income details and personal movements might fall into the wrong hands and be used in kidnappings for ransom or other types of extortion.

However, as some islands are learning, passport-selling has its drawbacks. Demand in St Kitts and Nevis was so great that officials there said the price was deliberately increased to make passports more difficult to obtain.



President Moi in cheerful mood during his inauguration in Nairobi yesterday. He appealed to assembled diplomats for more foreign aid.

Moi pledges sensitivity and end to corruption

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN NAIROBI

AT A comparatively modest ceremony by recent Kenyan standards, President Moi began his fifth and final term in office with a pledge to be more sensitive to the needs of his people, who showed their disillusionment during the elections.

Apart from the ruling party supporters there seemed little enthusiasm for celebration among the small crowd who witnessed the inauguration. Sweeping into Uhuru Park, Nairobi, in the back of a Mercedes, Mr Moi was joined by Presidents Museveni of Uganda and Mkapa of Tanzania.

Mr Moi, 73, was returned to power with just over 40 per cent of the vote after a majority of Kenyans spread their support between 13 rival presidential contenders. The Kenyan leader called on his compatriots to put aside the ethnic hatred of the campaign and to "close ranks". He pledged to rid his Government of corruption and improve the country's shambolic infrastructure. "My next Government will be more sensitive to the needs and aspirations of all *wananchi* [citizens]," he said. Mr Moi appealed to assembled diplomats for aid, saying: "For democracy to succeed it must be backed by economic support."

WORLD IN BRIEF

Four jailed after Strasbourg riots

Strasbourg: Four French people were sentenced to between nine months and two years in jail yesterday for their part in riots that swept the suburbs of the city over the new year holidays. A court official said. The four, aged 18 to 24, were jailed on charges ranging from setting fire to cars to stoning firemen and carrying out knife attacks.

The sentences came hours after rioters took to the streets in other French towns and cities, in apparent copycat acts of vandalism. Police yesterday reported overnight disturbances in at least four French towns and cities, including Saint Etienne, in central France, where more than 20 cars were set on fire. The wave of attacks has prompted a growing row over the handling of youth violence. (Reuters)

France in plea to Algeria

Paris: France broke its traditional silence on Algerian affairs yesterday by insisting that the Algerian Government do more to stop the slaughter of civilians (Ben Macintyre writes). In the latest massacre, blamed on Islamic fundamentalists, at least 400 people died, according to Algerian reports. France also said that Algeria must move swiftly towards democracy and urged President Zeroual's military-backed Government to pursue reform "relentlessly". Letters, page 15

Turkey detains Iraqi Kurds

Ankara: Turkish police have detained 310 Iraqi Kurds preparing to leave Turkey illegally for Italy. They were arrested after raids on small hotels and guest houses on the European side of Istanbul. Several Turks, suspected of arranging the Kurds' planned passage, were also detained. Police also arrested more than 200 Asian refugees planning to enter western Europe. The refugees were mainly from Pakistan, Iraq, Syria, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. (AFP)

Mondale runner's comeback

Washington: Geraldine Ferraro, left, 62, the only woman from a major party to run for the US vice-presidency — with Walter Mondale in 1984 — has returned to the political fray (Ian Brodie writes). She will seek the Democrat Senate nomination in New York State against Alfonse D'Amato, the Republican incumbent for 18 years, who won by a percentage point last time. Six years ago, Ms Ferraro narrowly finished second in a primary for the right to challenge Mr D'Amato.

Zimbabwe bus crash kills 40

Harare: Forty people died after their bus spun off a bend in mountainous eastern Zimbabwe, police said. Another 63 were injured, most of whom were in a critical condition in the district hospital at Nyanga, 160 miles east of Harare. The bus, licensed to carry 76 passengers, was overloaded, with 103 people on board. It was travelling from Nyanga to Harare. A bus overturned on the same road in 1991, killing 89 people in the nation's worst bus crash. (AP)

Kennedy fractured his skull

Washington: Michael Kennedy, killed in a skiing accident last Wednesday, died almost instantly of a fractured skull and a severed spinal cord, CNN said quoting a coroner's report. Kennedy, 39, a son of the late Robert Kennedy, hit a tree on the slopes in Aspen, Colorado, while playing "touch football" with family members. He was buried in a private ceremony at Brookline, Massachusetts, on Saturday. (AFP)

Titanic earns \$32m in US

New York: *Titanic*, the most expensive film ever made, had its most successful weekend to date, taking \$32.2 million (£19.75 million) at the American box office (Tunku Varadarajan writes). On Saturday alone, the film made \$12.7 million, its best single day yet. In the 17 days since its debut, the three-hour long epic has earned \$156.5 million. The film cost \$200 million to produce, and the makers, 20th Century Fox and Paramount, need to earn an estimated \$450 million to break even.



Muslims in anti-brothel riots

Jakarta: Thousands of angry Muslims in three Indonesian towns went on a violent rampage, protesting against brothels and stalls selling alcohol. In East Java, people took to the streets in Bangkalan and in Bondowoso, where two policemen were wounded with machetes. In Tangerang, west of Jakarta, hundreds of youths attacked three houses suspected of being brothels, causing serious damage. (AFP)

Boy survives fall from 130ft

Belgrade: A 12-year-old boy survived a fall from his family's fourteenth-floor flat in Belgrade without breaking a bone. *Blic* newspaper said. Daniel Girsig fell from the balcony of the flat but a tree in front of the building slowed his 130ft-plunge and probably prevented serious injuries. Doctors said they decided to keep him in hospital for couple of days. (AFP)

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Chicago Bulls are the rage as Chinese embrace the American way

The young Chinese waiter said: "Good evening, my name is Huang, and I will be your waiter this evening." The English words were spoken to an American family in a new Western restaurant in Beijing the other night. When the meal was served, Huang said: "Enjoy your dinner."



Despite ideological differences and tensions, Communist officials as well as the young find much to admire in the US, James Pringle reports from Beijing

other embassies. "When you see America, you are not just seeing America, you are seeing the whole world," is a common expression in Chinese.

vibrant, neon-light displays of the Nevada resort. The love affair with America, which was once damned by the party as an "imperialist paper tiger", is apparent in China as well, where there are more than 130 McDonald's restaurants, many Pizza Huts and Kentucky Fried Chicken outlets plus a Hard Rock Cafe in Beijing.

and billboards for Camel and Marlboro cigarettes are found everywhere, even on the bridge linking mainland China with Hong Kong.

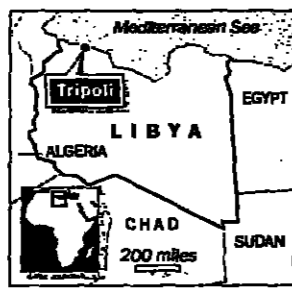
crowds in at cinemas in Beijing last year, even though the tickets were expensive by local standards.

foreign living styles, such as McDonald's, Coca-Cola, American movies, and American sports stars. Later, with more exchanges, they will get to know more detailed aspects of the other's culture.

Ziming, 24, a graduate male student, said: "I like America because people from all countries can find living space there. Of course, there are evil religions and a lot of private guns but like a strong man, a small illness won't affect America much."

Iraqi scientists 'helping Libya on germ arms'

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT



COLONEL Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, is receiving extensive help from Iraqi scientists in a covert programme to develop biological weapons, according to Western intelligence sources.

months ago. The dozen scientists have joined other Iraqi researchers who have been in Libya since the 1991 Gulf War.

US grounds British trainer after crashes

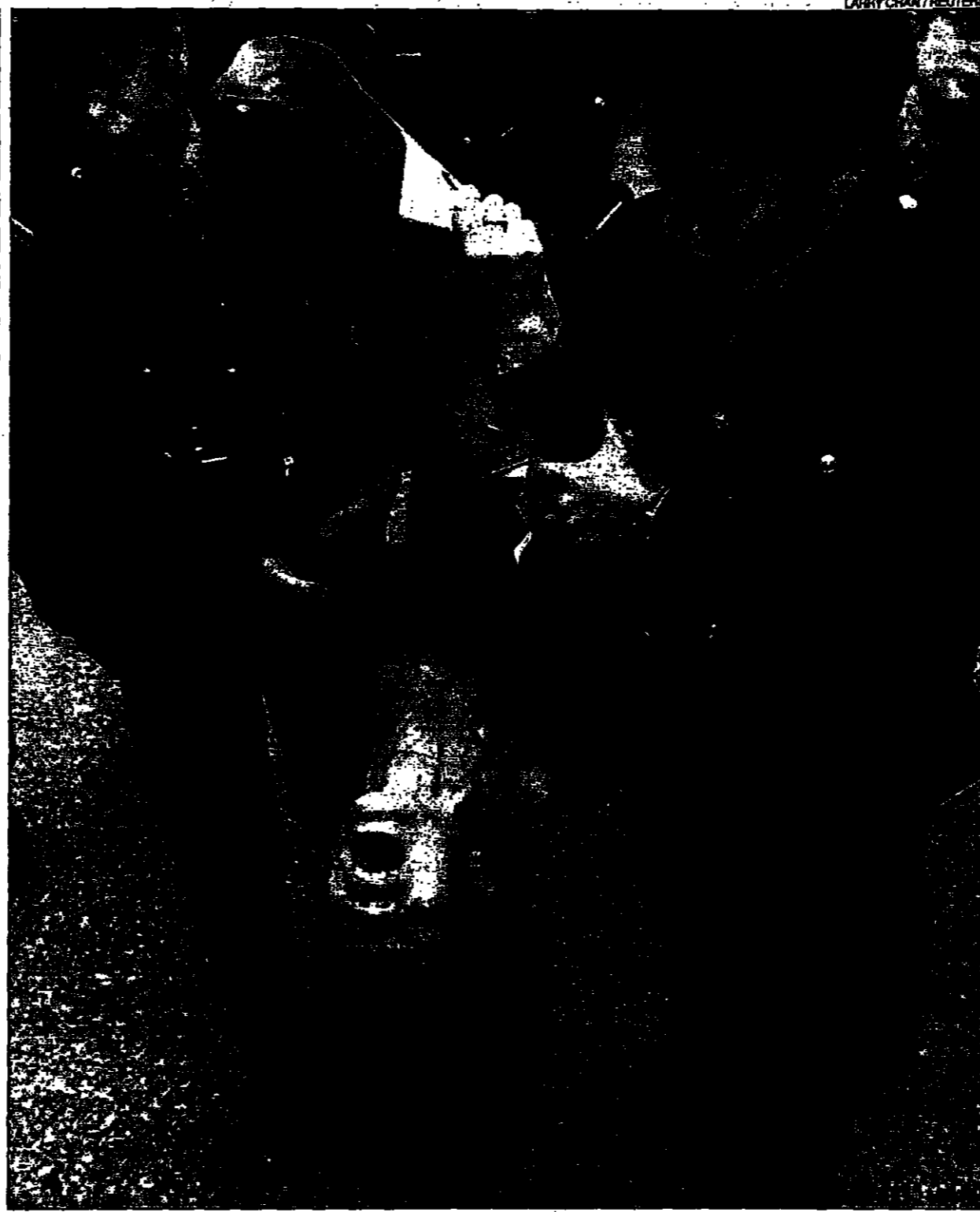
By MICHAEL EVANS

A BRITISH-made trainer aircraft sold to the United States Air Force is under review in America after three fatal crashes in which six trainee pilots and three instructors were killed.

weak for serious manoeuvres in the thin air over the Rockies where the US Air Force Academy is located in Colorado Springs.

ya and Iraq may have been signed last May during a visit to Baghdad of a Libyan industrialists' organisation.

Now it seems he is attempting to develop a biological warfare complex under the guise of a medical facility.



Policewomen remove a demonstrator during the visit by Yang Shangkun to Hong Kong yesterday

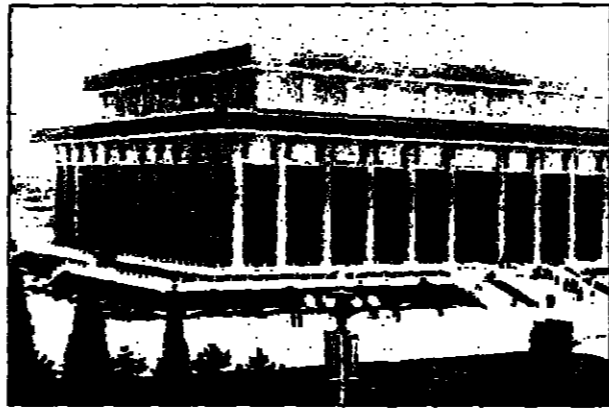
Protests greet massacre planner

By JAMES PRINGLE

PRO-DEMOCRACY activists demonstrated yesterday as Yang Shangkun, the former President of China, met local leaders in Hong Kong on his first visit to the former British territory since it was returned to Chinese rule last July.

Some demonstrators were dragged from the gates by police, while others shouted: "It is not a crime to re-evaluate the June 4 massacre."

Mr Yang, 90, a former general and a veteran of the Long March, was President at the time of the massacre and is believed to have played a major role in organising the army attack through his control of troops in Beijing.



The Tiananmen Square building housing Mao

Mao's mausoleum reopens

By JAMES PRINGLE

WHEN Mao's mausoleum closed nine months ago for "repairs" - whether to the Great Helmsman's embalmed corpse or to the Tiananmen Square building housing it was a matter of speculation - many assumed that it would not reopen.

remains of the man who brought them the People's Republic of China.

Sixties, he has remained extraordinarily popular. He is now a cult figure, appearing alongside images of Buddha and other deities in temples.

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Gandhi gambles to save party and family honour

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

SONIA GANDHI, protector of the Gandhi-Nehru dynasty, will campaign in next month's general election on women's rights, low-caste justice and Muslim equality.

There are a number of theories why she has decided to campaign for her late husband's moribund party. The most oft-expressed is that she wants to ensure that Congress is part of the new Government in order to block embarrassing inquiries into activities in which he was probably implicated.

New papal shooting inquiry

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THE Pope was quoted yesterday as saying for the first time that he believed Bulgarian agents planned the 1981 attempt on his life in St Peter's Square by Mehmet Ali Agca, a Turkish gunman.

Bhutto clan fights for girl's custody

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS, SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

A PAKISTANI court began hearings yesterday into rival claims for the custody of Benazir Bhutto's niece, Fatima Bhutto, 14, throwing the divided Bhutto clan into further confrontation.

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Israeli leader clings to power in budget vote

Benjamin Netanyahu has survived a key Knesset test but faces challenges over peace terms, Ross Dunn writes

THE Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, survived against the odds yesterday by securing the passage of his budget despite a reduced parliamentary majority.

The victory margin was larger than expected — 58-52 votes, with at least one government abstention. It was the first test for the shaky coalition after the resignation of David Levy, the Foreign Minister, on Sunday. Mr Netanyahu's coalition grip on power has been reduced to a bare 61 in the 120-seat Knesset after the departure of Mr Levy and his five-strong Geshet faction.

On some issues the Prime Minister could pick up another two votes from the extreme right-wing Moleket Party. But Moleket and other members of right-wing nationalist and Jewish religious groups who make up Mr Netanyahu's Government are expected to oppose him over any further land-for-peace deals with the Palestinians.

Publicly, a defiant Mr Netanyahu said his Government was "a lot more stable than is believed". But in private he told aides that if the budget had not been approved yesterday, the Government would have fallen, forcing him to go to the polls early.

Pessimism about the Government's long-term future was underlined by comments from Rafael Eitan, the Agri-

culture Minister. "The Government in its current form is hanging by a thread and will not be able to continue for very long," he said.

Despite the successful passage of the budget, Mr Netanyahu is expected to face another crisis almost immediately over commitments under the peace accords to transfer more land in the West Bank to Palestinian self-rule. Mr Netanyahu has failed to secure Cabinet agreement on the scale of further troop withdrawals.

Prominent Israeli political analysts believe that Mr Netanyahu knows his days are numbered and he is already preparing for the next election campaign.

The turning point was, they say, Mr Levy's resignation, which has all but destroyed the slim prospects of advancing the Middle East peace process. Mr Levy had been the leading "moderate" and his departure is likely to result in a paralysis in decision-making over the extent of Palestinian self-rule.

The Prime Minister now faces a new deadline of Janu-

ary 20, when he is due to meet President Clinton at the White House. America's Special Envoy to the Middle East, Dennis Ross, will arrive in the region today to pave the way for the Washington meeting. The US Administration believes there can be no further postponements of the troop pull-backs if the peace process is to be advanced.

Hemi Shalev, writing in the Hebrew daily *Maariv*, predicted the breakup of the coalition over the issue.

More than ever Mr Netanyahu is dependent on rightwingers, many of who are opposed to advancing the peace process. Those few ministers who do support the peace process might decide it is no longer possible to support the Government and this could also bring about the coalition's demise.

Mr Netanyahu might face a new resignation threat from his Defence Minister, Yitzhak Mordechai. In recent days, Mr Mordechai, the most popular man in the Government, has indicated he might consider quitting if a decision was made in the near future on the long overdue troop redeployment in the West Bank.

Mark Heller, senior Research Associate at Tel Aviv's Jaffee Centre, said the departure of Mr Levy's faction could push the Cabinet further to the right and lead to tensions with the US. If this happened, he believed that Mr Mordechai might lose patience with Mr Netanyahu.

He believed that the Third Way Party lead by Avigdor Kahalani, a former Labour Party member, could also decide to pull out of the coalition — "in which case the fall of the Government is guaranteed". If the Government fell because of a vote of no confidence, there would be challenges to Mr Netanyahu from within the party, he said.



Valdas Adamkus celebrates his narrow victory in Lithuania with his wife, Alma

Vilnius win for ex-US official

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

A FORMER senior official in the US Environmental Protection Agency will be inaugurated as President of Lithuania next month after squeezing through a run-off election at the weekend.

Results announced yesterday gave Valdas Adamkus, a Lithuanian-American who fled the Baltic state in 1944 before the advancing Soviet Army, 49.9 per cent of the vote, against 49.2 per cent for his rival, Arturas Paulauskas, 44, a former prosecutor general. Mr Adamkus, 71, pledged to

bolster national security. But Mr Adamkus, like his predecessor Algirdas Brazauskas, favours a policy of rapprochement and yesterday made it clear that he regarded the Kaliningrad question as closed.

The President has little executive power in Lithuania, and Mr Adamkus said during his campaign that in the American environmental agency he had managed a larger budget than Lithuania's.

keep his country on course for entry to both the European Union and Nato. But he also said that good ties with Moscow were a priority. "Russia, which is on its way to democracy, is of special importance to Lithuania and we will do everything so that this is reflected in our relations," he said.

Hardline Lithuanian nationalists remain bitter about the 50 years of Soviet rule and some are calling for the takeover of the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad, immediately south of Lithuania, in order to

White House fears fallout from Asia crisis



AMERICAN AGENDA BRONWEN MADDOX

As President Clinton returns from his Caribbean break to an unseasonably warm Washington, where T-shirted rollerbladers cruise past the White House, his advisers are giving a warning that the sunshine may not last. Americans are regaining their optimism after a quarter of a century of worry, and politicians are ditching their predictions of apocalyptic squabble over the unexpected fruits of the boom, but the Administration fears economic growth may be more precarious than it seems.

Mr Clinton yesterday added to grounds for optimism by announcing that next month he would present a plan for balancing the federal budget in the fiscal year 1999 — the first since 1969 — and well ahead of early predictions. Meanwhile, unemployment is back to the levels of the 1960s, while consumer confidence is at a 28-year high.

The 1980s boom under Ronald Reagan provided a brief respite from America's postwar tendency to think their country's prospects were deteriorating. But the fall in crime and the stabilisation of divorce has weakened that conviction. A recent survey cited by the *Los Angeles Times* found that nearly half of Americans said that they were "highly contented" with their lives, by far the highest figure for 30 years.

That new faith in the American way has profoundly changed the tenor of US politics, sounding a triumphant note not heard since the 1960s. After the South-East Asia financial crisis, Americans are no longer resigned to the inevitable arrival of "the Asian century".

But there are worries. The most obvious is complacency: the White House has slammed Republican calls for tax cuts given the need to tackle chronic problems of education, inner cities and paying for the retirement of baby boomers. It is also agreed, even by optimists, that economic growth will

slow. Gross domestic product increased by nearly 4 per cent last year, the most hopeful predictions for this hover around 2.5 per cent.

But the Asian crisis is one factor that could bring growth down even lower. The good news is that it has removed fears of the US economy overheating, pushing up inflation. But companies that have spent the boom years pouring money into new capacity are now worried about loss of business in Asia, or about competition from Asian goods made even cheaper by collapsed currencies. The best symbol of the new uncertainty is Boeing, the aircraft company, which rattled investors in October by saying it could not keep up with demand. Now it fears a slump in Asian orders.

Economists are also concerned that much of the boom was fuelled by consumer debt. The soaring stock market made Americans feel richer, prompting them to spend more. But if share prices and property values slump, there is a small risk that consumers will be unable to pay debts. Even more likely, they will not spend as much, cutting off the engine that has driven the boom.

Well-founded or not, the worries are unlikely to have much effect on politics in the run-up to the November congressional elections. It may be Pollyannaish, but the message Americans want to hear is that the golden-age of the 1960s is back.

in Way

Protests greet massacre planner



Mr Netanyahu, left, talks to David Amman, a local council leader who backs the Prime Minister

Sex abuse may drive women to drink

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

A NEW study by two American psychologists reveals that more than half of the country's female alcoholics were sexually abused as young girls, suggesting a "powerful link" between their childhood traumas and later adult excesses.

In a book published here, called *Gender and Alcohol*, Sharon and Richard Wilsnack, of the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, argue that childhood sexual abuse puts girls at a "much higher than normal risk" of "life-disrupting alcohol dependence as a result".

The couple surveyed 1,099 women over a 15-year period. Their findings would appear to confirm previously published Government reports that more than two million of the four million female alcoholics suffered some form of childhood sexual trauma.

According to Sharon Wilsnack, the study does not demonstrate a contingent connection between sex abuse and alcoholism. The relationship between the two, however, "is powerful". She said: "Abuse is the single strongest predictor of alcohol dependency, even stronger than a family history of drinking."

Mary Dufour, deputy director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, said: "It's a landmark study. We just don't have anything on women and alcoholism this large or this long." Most previous studies have focused exclusively on alcoholism in adult males.

The study is not confined to questions of sexual abuse alone. The authors also challenge several popular assumptions about women and alcoholism: they find that divorce does not normally drive women to drink. On the contrary, it can have just the opposite effect, as realities impose a new responsibility.

Gender and Alcohol by Sharon and Richard Wilsnack, Rutgers Centre of Alcohol Studies, \$29.95.

Paris Left wants eugenics advocate taken off street

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

A PARIS street named after Alexis Carrel, the Nobel prize-winning French scientist who was also a fervent supporter of the collaborationist Vichy regime and an advocate of eugenics, has become the latest battleground in the intense ideological debate over the nation's wartime past.

Left-wing city officials have written to the Mayor of Paris demanding that rue Alexis Carrel in the 15th arrondissement be renamed since it commemorates a man whose scientific theories echoed those of the Nazis.

"Paris must cease to honour Alexis Carrel," the petition said, pointing out that the celebrated scientist had argued in favour of systematically eliminating "undesirable" and "genetically inferior" members of society several years before the Nazis put such ideas into murderous effect.

Jean Tiberi, the Gaullist Mayor of Paris, has so far refused to change the name of the street, despite evidence of

Carrel's extreme views and dubious wartime role.

Born in 1873, Carrel was a pioneering surgeon who won the Nobel Prize in 1912 for his research into human tissue and organ transplants. During the First World War he worked at the military hospital in Compiègne, where his methods for cleaning wounds saved many lives.

In 1935, however, Carrel published a highly popular book of pseudo-science claiming the existence of a "hereditary biological aristocracy" and arguing that "deviant" human types should be suppressed using techniques similar to those later employed by the Nazis.

"A euthanasia establishment, equipped with a suitable gas, would allow the humanitarian and economic disposal of those who have killed, committed armed robbery, kidnapped children, robbed the poor or seriously betrayed public confidence," Carrel wrote in *L'Homme, cet Inconnu* (Man, this Un-

known). A friend of the Vichy leader, Marshal Philippe Pétain, Carrel was offered the post of Health Minister in the collaborationist Government but instead took over the French Foundation for the Study of Human Problems, where he recommended that children, labourers and the mentally ill should be provided with only minimal food rations.

Carrel died of natural causes in 1944. After the war he was hailed as one of the greatest French scientists, and it was not until 1991 that his views on genetics and selective breeding were revealed.

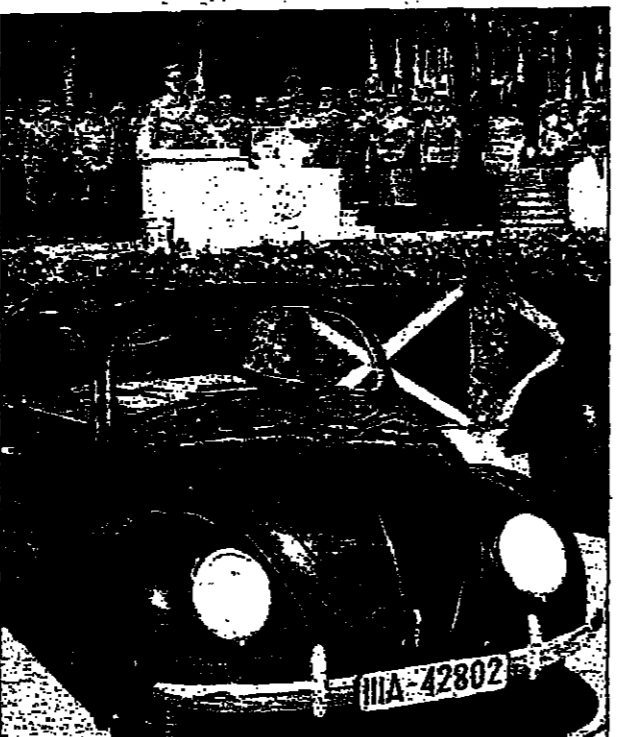
Streets named after Carrel in Strasbourg, Montpellier and Limoges have already been renamed, and last year the University of Lyons rechristened its Carrel medical faculty in honour of René Laënnec, the French inventor of the stethoscope. A spokesman for the Mayor of Paris said: "Rechristening a street always seriously disrupts the lives of those living there."

New Beetle takes bite at chic niche

Born: Favoured by thrifty German burghers and American hippies in decades past, the once-basic Beetle — seen by Hitler as the "People's Car" — is back as a model for moneyed buyers who are seeking nostalgic chic.

The rounded roof and bug-eyed headlights have been married to technology and engine power that drivers of the beloved original could only dream of. "This is not the successor of the Beetle," said a spokesman at VW headquarters in Wolfsburg, as the car made its debut at a Detroit show yesterday. "It is a niche car for people looking for the special touch."

VW plans to build 60,000 New Beetles a year at its plant in Puebla, Mexico, rising to 100,000 if demand is high, the spokesman said. (AP)



Hitler at the launch of the "People's Car" in 1938

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Keeping a killer at bay

As fears of a global flu outbreak rise, Eve-Ann Prentice and Dr Thomas Stuttford look at ways of tackling and treating the virus

Every February six specialists gather in Geneva to plan how to stay one step ahead of the enemy — an invading foe that killed at least 20 million people in a single year earlier this century.

The invader has spread global death and mayhem at least twice more since then and the experts who meet every winter are constantly on alert for indications that the enemy may be about to strike worldwide again — as one day it surely will.

Even in a "normal" year, millions of people are laid low by the scourge: in Britain alone 3,000-4,000 are killed by it. Many more would be affected, but for the efforts of the Geneva team. For the foe is influenza, and the scientists who meet in Switzerland are the team who decide the make-up of the vaccine that will be used to protect the vulnerable.

One of the experts is Dr Alan Hay, head of the World Influenza Centre, set up in 1947 and based at the National Institute for Medical Research in Mill Hill, North London. Dr Hay, who works from a laboratory in an dreary-looking building amid examples of flu virus dating back to 1933, explains how the battle against the disease is waged.

Although influenza outbreaks happen every year, there have been only a handful of global epidemics, known as pandemics, this century — including Spanish flu, which struck down at least 20 million between 1918 and 1919 as the world was still reeling from the losses of the Great War; Asian flu in 1957 and Hong Kong flu in 1968, both of which killed at least 7,000 in Britain.

Pandemics happen when a radically different new strain of the virus emerges. Furthermore, large numbers of young people have no immunity to the strain that caused the 1968 outbreak and which is still harboured by some birds — this means that it could cross back into human beings. And as each year passes, the number of those with no immunity to this strain increases.

"Another pandemic will happen — when we don't know," says Dr Hay. "We do our best to monitor and detect potential pandemic viruses so we have as much time as possible to deal with the situation. This country has drawn up plans and the World Health Organisation (WHO) is considering its role."

Non-urgent operations would be cancelled, the number of emergency hospital beds increased and mortuary facilities



One sneeze from an infected person and anyone near by is at risk. What happens next, if the virus enters your mouth, nose or eye, is tantamount to piracy

expanded, it was reported in October. But Dr Hay is anxious to point out that at the moment "no virus has been identified within the human population that is likely to cause a pandemic".

A worldwide flu surveillance network — comprising the World Influenza Centre, centres in America, Australia and Japan as well as 100 WHO laboratories — constantly monitors changes to the virus.

"The purpose is to monitor changes that occur in the virus over time," says Dr Hay. "The first aim is to detect as early as possible any changes in the strain such as

occurred in 1957 and 1968, which caused serious pandemics. The second point is to monitor less dramatic changes to enable us to formulate the composition of the vaccine."

"It takes six to eight months for the manufacturers to make the vaccine so we have to make our information available in February in order for it to be ready for distribution from October."

A new strain does sometimes appear after the year's vaccine has already been distributed, but those who have received immunisation usually suffer a milder

version of the flu because the vaccine still provides some protection.

Fears that the next pandemic may be imminent have been raised in Hong Kong, where a strain normally found in chickens and other birds has so far infected 16 people. The alert started last May, when a five-year-old boy died just weeks before the former British territory was handed back to China.

"All the 16 confirmed cases, and a further five suspected ones, have been in Hong Kong and there is no evidence it has spread outside that area," says Dr Hay. "Evidence of human-to-human infection with this virus is quite tenuous and most of the cases seem to be related to birds. Given that the number of cases is relatively few, this has given us some cause for hope."

That said, Dr Hay adds: "It has been quite a busy Christmas. The WHO is certainly not relaxed about the situation in Hong Kong, and we don't know what is going on in China."

Everyone knows that stuffy Tube trains, schools and nursing homes are havens for rampant flu germs. One sneeze from an infected person and anyone near by is at risk. What happens next, if the virus enters your mouth, nose or eye, is tantamount to piracy. The evil-looking flu, which looks like a spike-studded ball, causes illness by invading a cell and conning it into producing hundreds of copies of viral DNA.

The host cell cannot distinguish between its own DNA and that contributed by the virus. Instead of producing new cell material, the cell becomes a virus-producing factory and new virus particles are eventually released; these go off and

find a host cell of their own to commandeer.

Most people manage to fight off the invasion and recover within a week, but potentially fatal complications such as pneumonia can affect the elderly, diabetics and newborn babies, usually after they have begun to feel better.

And it is no good trying to control the disease by isolating those with symptoms because flu can be spread by someone before they even feel the first twinge. Initial symptoms — the miserable catalogue of aches, fever, chills, headache and dry cough — usually appear two to four days after infection and the new victim is then contagious for three or four more days.

Children should not be given aspirin to ease the symptoms because the drug has been associated with a rare but alarming flu side-effect known as Reye's syndrome, where victims suffer nausea, vomiting followed by confusion and delirium.

Dr Hay, who studied in Aberdeen and South Carolina before moving to devote his life to the battle against the global threat of influenza 20 years ago, has a team of three who help him with his research. Aren't they worried about catching something?

"Of course, we are at risk. We are handling these viruses, therefore we stand a risk of contracting disease. I have had flu but that was years ago... it is not a problem."

So is Dr Hay one of the 6.5 million people in Britain who have flu jabs every autumn?

"Vaccine is not recommended for young, healthy people like myself," he smiles ruefully.

Nicotine versus vanity

Rachel Campbell-Johnston smokes her last cigarette

THERE is only one sure cure for a smoker's sore throat: to stop smoking. So that is what I did. On the stroke of midnight a few days ago, I stole out alone into the dark London streets and, praying to my God to give me strength, crumpled up my fag packet and crucked it in a bin.

Any seasoned quitter will understand exactly why I had to go out into the street. Cigarettes, so confidently hurled at midnight into a flip-top bin in the kitchen, are easily retrievable the next day. The harsh resolution gone, rooting through bottles and ash in search of that packet and that one "last" smoke.

This year I shall prove myself made of sterner stuff. All that remains is to sit out the cravings. It will take several weeks. Life looks grim. Right now, I would rather cut my throat than my habit.

Of course, I have tried giving up countless times before — every birthday, every new year, the first Monday of every month. Even equinoxes and new moons were turned into "must quit" days. The trouble is, the more chances there are to give up, the more chance you have of relapsing. After all, there will always be yet another "auspicious date" coming up.

If you are short of ideas, just glance at a desk diary. Why not postpone until Pentecost? Why not do it once and for all for Diwali, the Hindu festival?

Giving up smoking is annoyingly difficult. In public you have a terrible time finding something polite to do with your hands and lips. In private you are a prisoner to your own irritation. Before virtue brings its own reward, it reaps a terrible revenge — rasping tonsils, screaming epiglottis and a fuse shorter than Chief Sitting Bull deprived of his peace pipe.

IN THE past I have patchworked my skin with nicotine plasters — most unglamorously with summer frocks — and chewed nicotine gum until my mandibles groaned. But these pandered to addiction, rather than curing it. When willpower finally went kaput, smoking was resumed with whetted appetite.

I have lapsed into aversion therapy, hypnosis, acupuncture, herbal cigarettes — even of paying to maroon oneself on a windswept island, putting a sobering stretch of cold, grey sea between fidgeting fingers and the nearest tobaccoist's. Maybe these would work. But this year I am following another, surefire remedy. It rests on vanity — a powerful incentive, especially among women, who, polls suggest, are the worst culprits when it comes to tobacco.

Before, I had always focused on health, letting imagination wander through the hazy wastelands of my lungs, into clogged alveoli and overworked cilia. I dreamt of cancer and emphysema, nursed on bronchitis and heart disease. But the shock slowly faded. As you cannot see your lungs, what was out of sight was too easily put out of mind.

So this year I am focusing on what I can see — and it is sobering: the slow hollowing of the skin, the deepening wrinkles, yellowing fingertips and staining teeth. As I sit and fidget, dreaming of the nicotine bliss that lies just a flip of a packlet lid and a flare of a match away, I pull out a pocket mirror and stare. Surely now I cannot relapse — I cannot lose face.

Spanish flu killed 20 million between 1918 and 1919

Stay warm and drink plenty

A million or two chickens in Hong Kong, together with all ducks and geese, have already been slaughtered in an attempt to stamp out the small outbreak of avian flu and to save the rest of the world from a global outbreak of influenza.

The scientists have reasoned that if the virus can make the leap from birds to people, it could also be transmitted to other animals. So public health doctors are now keeping a close eye on cats and dogs, which might have eaten poultry scraps. There is no certainty that any infection would be of equal virulence in other species, however, so although avian flu has proved serious in people who have caught it, it might remain undiagnosed in cats and dogs — even as the family pet transmits it to human beings.

Outbreaks of flu that make the headlines occur when there has been a marked shift in the surface antigenic component of the strains of the flu virus. Minor changes, antigenic drift, occur regularly whereas major changes happen only periodically.

There are three types of influenza. Type A is the most common and most unstable, and so is most often the cause of epidemics. Influenza B is more stable, and less likely to cause a widespread epidemic,

although individuals who suffer from it can be severely affected. Influenza C is less serious still, and is usually dismissed as no more than a nasty cough after a heavy cold.

The big worry about avian flu is that its victims have no immunity to it. People with poor immune systems such as young children, the elderly, those with malignant diseases, or patients who are taking steroids or other immunosuppressant drugs, are more likely to have severe problems.

There have been gloomy comparisons between the effects of a pandemic (worldwide epidemic) of avian flu with those of Spanish flu, a strain of influenza A that spread across the world after the First World War. But it should be remembered that there were no anti-biotics to treat the complications then.

People rarely die from uncomplicated flu, and those who do usually have pre-existing chronic disease. Occasionally, death may occur unexpectedly after viral pneumonia induced by flu. Those who do catch "normal" flu this year should go to bed and rest, exercising excessively while ill

can be dangerous and even lead to sudden death. The patient should take analgesic drugs and plenty of fluids. Aspirin is the drug of choice for adults but should not be given to children. Give them paracetamol instead.

Use of antibiotics from the onset of flu is justified for those liable to suffer complications, or for anyone whose breathing becomes laboured, who coughs up blood or shows signs of cyanosis, a bluish tinge to their features.

Doctors differ over how to treat respiratory tract infections. In Australia, for instance, more than 90 per cent of patients with a sore throat are prescribed an antibiotic, whereas in the United Kingdom the figure varies widely — in some practices, it is less than 5 per cent, in others nearly 80 per cent. The authoritative journal *The Practitioner* divides GPs into three groups. The first group prescribes antibiotics immediately; the second will not do so until there is evidence of a well-defined secondary infection; and the third will give antibiotics only when

there has been no improvement in the patient's symptoms after, say, three to five days. All doctors have their preferred antibiotics for respiratory tract infections. The most commonly prescribed antibiotic is Amoxil. I usually give patients Amoxil, Augmentin or Klacid, but some others are equally efficacious.

The advantages in prescribing antibiotics have to be weighed against the possible complications of the treatment. But if they are given before laboratory tests have been carried out, there is a good case for prescribing one that covers a broad spectrum of complaints and will knock out any of the infections that might lead to persistent troubles. People who are known to be vulnerable to the possible consequences of flu and its complications should be given injections against pneumococcus. All older people and others at risk should have flu jabs each year and these people should be first in line for antibiotics.

Any inoculation that will provide protection against avian flu will take at least 18 months to develop. Should this form of influenza spread before a vaccine is ready, then good nursing and the appropriate use of treatment for possible complications will have to suffice.

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Questions for the head

THE RIGHT SCHOOL

In the final part of his series on education, John Rae, the former head of Westminster School, tells parents what to look for in a school and what points to put to its staff

The best opportunity parents have of judging the quality of a school is when they see it in action. But the visit needs to be carried out with all the skill and attention to detail of a military manoeuvre. Keep your eyes and ears open. A school is alive with clues, but you will not pick them up if you just stroll through the building exchanging pleasantries with your guide. You are not making a diagnosis, looking for symptoms of the school's good health or sickness. Your chances of picking up useful clues are much greater if you visit the school on a normal working day, as opposed to being one of the crowd at an open day. The best time is usually during the morning, when classes are being taught, not during an afternoon when, in many independent schools at least, the pupils are scattered over the playing fields and classrooms are empty. If your visit overlaps the mid-morning break, so much the better when the pupils are wild and teachers seek the safety of the staff room, you will learn more about the values of the school than from the mission statement in the prospectus.

Do not be too impressed by the pupils who show you round. They are good company, but they are hand-picked. Schools are shrewd to provide guides; there is a limit to what in all fairness you can ask them. Whoever shows you round, you should insist on seeing a class in action - preferably 14 to 15-year-olds, not well-scrubbed new boys. Count the number of pupils to check the school's claims about class size. I see no reason to be shocked, or pleased if there are rows of individual desks, or a less traditional pattern. Bad schools make a fetish of such things. How the classroom is arranged is of little importance compared with the quality of teaching and discipline.

Poor discipline turns schools sour because pupils and teachers do not know where they stand. If you cannot always see it in their faces, is the way they move around the school and in the way they react to your being there, you will see it in the state of the buildings. Schools cannot be expected to be spick and span like naval ships, but

neither should they look like run-down seaside resorts out of season.

Dirty windows and broken furniture, old notices flapping in the wind, graffiti that no one has bothered to remove, all suggest that the authorities lack both the will and the pride to run the school efficiently. Do not be fobbed off with excuses about lack of resources. You need resources to repair a roof, but not to remove graffiti.

Some facilities are more revealing than others. The library, for example, should be the heart of the school during the working day, and in a boarding school its lights should be burning well into the evening. Ask how many books there are. A good independent boarding school library will have between 25,000 and 30,000 books and a good day school library, independent or state, should have about half that number.

As well as teaching pupils to love books and to enjoy reading, the library is the place where they learn how to access information. Schools are, at different stages of developing their information technology. What you should be looking for is not a room full of computers, which you should take for granted, but evidence that there is a whole-school policy for providing information technology. Are the pupils in the history room using a CD-Rom to study Renaissance art and architecture, or is the computer just an alien presence, collecting dust?

If your appointment is with the head teacher, take their measure. What you are looking for is "authority". Of all the qualities we may wish to find in a headmaster or headmistress - understanding of the young, integrity, energy, vision - the ability to command respect and obedience is the most important. Without it, a community of hundreds of adolescents will fall apart and no amount of ideals and good intentions will hold it together. The head makes all the difference.

The degree to which the head is in command varies. The heads of state schools have less freedom of action than the heads of independent schools, but much hinges on personality and style.

Given that the head exercises such power and influence, prospective parents want



A good head teacher is crucial to a school's discipline and success. They should be energetic, committed and charismatic, inspiring both pupils and teachers by their example

to be reassured that the man or woman at the top possesses the right qualities. But would we agree on what those qualities are? Some governing bodies now say they need a head, but when pupils are asked, the quality most frequently mentioned is approachability. What makes a successful head is not his marketing skill or his ease of manner, but his ability to persuade the school to believe in him. In that sense, the ultimate source of his authority is charismatic. He has got what it takes to inspire others.

You will not find that on his curriculum vitae. You might recognise it when you meet him, although do not forget you have to look through the eyes of his pupils and teachers.

Local and parental gossip about the head is based on hearsay. It also tends to be over-optimistic, particularly when a new head arrives. New heads are almost always said to be "very good", so if you hear that, you should take it with a pinch of salt. What they say about the head after four or five years is more revealing.

These are some of the questions parents should ask:

May we see a copy of the school rules?
Having seen the rules, you can then ask supplementary questions about the various punishments used, the rule that is most frequently broken and the rule that senior pupils seem to resent most. This is a good way of assessing the head's attitude to discipline. He or she knows that discipline is never quite as good as the school - or you - would like. Providing a firm framework, without treating every peccadillo as a test case, is one of a head's most difficult tasks.

May we see the GCSE and A-level results, by subject, for the past three years?
You will need time to study the results, but you can tell at a glance if some academic departments are more successful than others. The head's explanation may be that some departments attract the brighter pupils, but that is a circular argument: they attract the brighter pupils because they are good departments. The pupils know exactly who the good teachers are. Why not ask the head to name the strongest and weakest academic departments?

How does the school's curriculum compare with the national curriculum?
Independent schools are not required to follow the national curriculum. In practice they aim to offer more, not less. To find out what "more" means, focus on the GCSE years. Does the school offer three sciences at GCSE level? What choices are available to GCSE pupils outside the core of compulsory subjects?

In the sixth form, the mark of a good school is not the number of A-level subjects on offer but the number of A-level combinations. Some sixth forms pride themselves on the wide range of subjects that can be studied, but that is of little value to pupils if some combinations of mainstream subjects are not available. Ask the head whether it is possible to study history and two modern languages, for example.

What do you expect from parents?
All schools are more open to parents now and the head will be keen to tell you about the many occasions when you and your views will be welcome. You need to look behind this

fashionable rhetoric. What are the limits of partnership? Is the head bound to welcome you in the school at any time?

How many teachers are leaving at the end of the year and why?
Staff turnover, and the reasons for it, is a clever way of introducing a more fundamental issue. What you are trying to discover is how good the teachers are. You can put the question any number of ways. Every school has some unsatisfactory teachers - how do you deal with this problem? Are all your staff qualified to teach their subject? What is the age profile of your staff?

What extras are there to pay on top of fees?
This is a straightforward question to which there should be a straightforward answer. The reason for asking it is that the practice in independent schools varies widely. Some say they "keep extras to an absolute minimum"; some spell out the extras, which can amount to 5 per cent of the boarding fee, and others again say nothing other than "full details may be obtained from the bursar".

Where do your leavers go?
Most heads will have an analysis of leavers' destinations. It should list all universities, not just Oxford, Cambridge and "other universities". Ask how many pupils leave at GCSE and why. An academically selective school should not normally lose pupils at this stage.

May we see a copy of the school development plan?
I would expect most state and independent schools to have a development plan, updated each year. It is not primarily about buildings but about the plans that the head and governors have formulated to ensure that the school remains viable and competitive. So it may, for example, include plans to raise academic standards, increase or decrease numbers, go co-educational, admit day pupils to a boarding establishment, or even to merge with a neighbouring school - all plans that a prospective parent would like to know about.

Heads of independent schools are more reluctant than heads of state schools to show you a copy of the school's development plan - no doubt because in some cases the plan does not exist.

Where were you last August when the A-level results were published?
If the answer is "on holiday in France", ask who was at the school to deal with the many queries and problems that are bound to arise when examination results are published. I think the head ought to be

there. This is the kind of commitment that gives teachers the right to be called professionals. It also tells you more about the school's attitude to its pupils than all those statements in the prospectus about the school being a family.

How do you prevent stealing by pupils?
I doubt whether there is a secondary school in the country that does not experience stealing by pupils from pupils. So what is the head doing to combat this? The honest answer is that there is little a headmaster can do, except to make his position clear by the way he deals with thieves and talks about the case to the school assembly, and by encouraging pupils to be more

alert in protecting their property. The dishonest answer is that it is not really a problem.

How many pupils did you expel last year and for what reasons?
This is a double-check question. You want to know where the school draws the line and to confirm whether this is consistent with what the head has been telling you about discipline. The total is likely to be three or four expulsions a year, regardless of the size of the school.

Are you currently applying for other jobs?
If your children are not due to enter a school for the next two to three years, you have a legitimate interest in knowing whether there is going to be a

change of head. Parents usually put the question more tactfully. "Do you have any plans to move on?" Or, more flatteringly: "You're not thinking of leaving, are you?"

The secondary purpose of the question is to encourage the head to talk less defensively about the job. By focusing on his future rather than that of the school, you should unlock some of the feelings behind the official answers. You do not expect him to share confidences with you, but implicit in his thoughts will be an awareness of what still needs to be done and whether he is the person to do it.

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Democracy demands a real senate

Roy Hattersley wants a second chamber to guard civil liberties

An upper house of Parliament is a constitutional luxury. The myth makers claim that without a "second chamber", the Commons could, by passing a single resolution, postpone (or even abandon) general elections. But it is public opinion, not standing orders, that protects democracy. The idea that the Lords guards our historic freedom is no more convincing than the notion that it is needed to improve imperfect legislation. Ministers rush badly prepared Bills through the Commons in the hope that "the other place" will rectify their mistakes. Often the Lords leaves errors uncorrected. Getting the law right is, or ought to be, the duty of the elected House of Commons.

Reverses for the past is too deeply ingrained in the British character to make a "unicameral" parliament possible. But if there is to be a second chamber, there are obvious rules by which it should be governed. All its members should be elected. A nominated chamber has no more legitimacy than one which accommodates an hereditary aristocracy. And the idea that patronage invariably provides the best man for the job is — as Cardinal Hume's supporters will agree — a myth spread by patronage.

The senate should not replicate the House of Commons and it should make a real contribution to the creation of a more sensitive parliamentary system. Our democracy needs a senate.

Just 200 members would be enough to do the job

The senate should improve laws and protect liberties, not initiate legislation. New laws must begin in the Commons where governments are formed to fulfil manifesto promises, and ministers claim the authority of the mandate. There should be no ministers in the senate. Its members will be elected as party members or sympathisers. But the registration of members in a caucus must be avoided. Commons discipline is less the product of loyalty than of ambition. In an assembly without ministers, the power of patronage barely exists. Ministers should attend the senate only to defend Bills and propose related changes.

Like a House of Commons special select committee, the senate would possess authority to hear the testimony of expert witnesses before it considered a Bill. The Commons has not used that power for years. The senate would use it as a matter of course. And its objective examination would not be inhibited by members who had already expressed a general view of the Bill's merits during the second reading debate in the House. Most important, the senate — as well as possessing the power to amend — should be able to veto the enactment of some legislation for the lifetime of a whole Parliament.

The Speaker of the Commons possesses the power to identify "money Bills" which the House of Lords cannot delay. The reverse procedure should be employed by the senate to designate Bills

which, since they affect civil liberties, deserve special consideration. When legislation reduces individual rights and the senate regards the reduction as unreasonable, it should have the authority to prevent the Bill from becoming law until the electorate has passed judgment on the party that introduced it.

The senate should possess a parallel power over ministerial edicts. Some of the recent assaults on civil rights have come, not from new legislation, but from ministers exercising the theoretically "royal" prerogative or using reserve powers. The denial of trade union membership at GCHQ Cheltenham illustrated that the European Convention on Human Rights does not provide an invariable remedy, nor do the courts. We need a senate to protect the people from government.

No doubt some of its members will have bizarre definitions of freedom. Pure Benthamites will insist that every law is an infringement of liberty. Followers of Hayek and Friedman will argue that all taxes deny the basic right to spend our own money and are acceptable only when they finance external defence and

internal security. Enthusiasts for selective education will claim that comprehensive schools restrict a parent's choice, while comprehensive school devotees argue the opposite. But the senate — generally composed of men and women who value their reputations — would quickly settle down to make sensible collective decisions.

Those sensible men and women must be elected by a method different from that which returns Westminster MPs. The two elections — House and senate — must be on different dates and the senate must sit for a fixed term. The scheme by which we are to send MEPs to Europe — proportional representation or government injunction. So the senate will not attract members who want to play at being MPs. But it would defend our liberties and improve our legislation. And since it would need to meet for only one hundred days a year, young members could maintain their careers elsewhere. It sounds like government for the 21st century. That, of course, is its problem.

The senate would be denied (some members would say spared) aimless debates on general subjects and it would not be entertained by the repetition of statements made by ministers to the Commons. It would question ministers only when it examined specific legislation or government injunction. So the senate will not attract members who want to play at being MPs. But it would defend our liberties and improve our legislation. And since it would need to meet for only one hundred days a year, young members could maintain their careers elsewhere. It sounds like government for the 21st century. That, of course, is its problem.

Lord Hattersley took his seat in the House of Lords on November 24.



TWELFTH NIGHT

Come back, Mr Chips

Both boys and girls benefit from a male role model at the blackboard

This is it, then: official figures prove it. Boys are different from girls, and if you educate them in exactly the same way, then the boys do worse at school, read later and less, and get expelled nearly five times more often. It is happening now, it is very embarrassing. Something must be done. Stephen Byers, the Schools Standards Minister, says so.

To the humble lay onlooker and battered parent, the prevailing sensation is of relief. The circle — well, with luck an upward spiral — has come around again, and we have acknowledged that equality does not mean uniformity. At last we can dare to talk in public about real children, instead of imaginary, gender-free ones. We can give up pretending that we live in a politically correct Eden and accept the evidence of our eyes: that when little girls decide to spend playtime testing one another on their times tables as they skip, a substantial majority of little boys find this behaviour incomprehensible and revolting. They would rather use the time pushing one another into puddles and going "Yaaaaarrrrrrr" and "Neeee-oww!" We can admit, albeit ruefully, that many of these boys reach their early teens with a strong private conviction that only girls and nerdy buffons swot. It has been a long and tortuous journey these past 20 years, across forests of confusion, quicksands of bitter emotion and whole mountain ranges of feminist triumphalism; but we have got there at last. We have admitted that children cannot be treated as neuter. It doesn't work. Hormones will out.

I suppose the journey needed to be made. Forty years ago the schools were still unbalanced in the other direction: girls were routinely put down in class, allowed to think of themselves as future nurses, secretaries or nurses only; and openly discouraged from studying "hard" sciences or crafts involving goggles and blowtorches. Even in the 1960s some of my own sixth-form contemporaries had to stage a revolt in order to get taught science properly, rather than by the dim old doddler thought adequate for a girls' school (the said doddler once told me that girls didn't "need" physics and chemistry, only her subject, biology. Even so, she stopped at dogfish).

In some schools even languages were divided: a grammar school child of the 1950s remembers being told "German is a boys' language,

French is more for girls". The put-downs were thought unbecoming. God knows how they thought that Marlene Dietrich used to cope. Meanwhile, in families paying fees, boys' education generally took priority over girls'. All this was a ridiculous and unfair hangover from the long struggle for women's education: within this century, remember, young women were being told that studying would divert blood from their womb to the brain and render them sterile.

But now we observe that schools have swung the other way. Girls are the bright sparks, the obedient academic achievers and conscientious deliverers of homework. Meanwhile, great numbers of the more macho boys — unable to dominate the scene as they used to — have retaliated by turning sulky and giving up trying. If coming top is what girls do, they as well as women, and that most of us feel that it is more natural, comfortable and stimulating for a school to have a mixed staffroom. Good male teachers, just by existing, help the boys to see that men can lead without violence and love knowledge without being whimsy. Moreover, a well-mixed staffroom — in a school of good morale — helps all the children to see that men and women can work together amicably. (This serves as a corrective to their other window on the adult working world, the television soap, very useful, especially now that even *Casualty* majors on a puting, bimbo doctor in tight whites who can't keep her hands off the male nurses.) But children are denied glimpses of a normal mixed-sex workplace if all their teachers are women: might as well grow up in a convent, like I did.

Men, however, have been draining from the teaching profession for 20 years. Some are deterred by the low pay, especially of primary teachers; the Government has asked the Teacher Training Agency to fund ways to tempt and retain them. But many, without doubt, are equally put

off by the low status and lack of cachet in the profession of classroom teaching.

Who can wonder at that? In the last administration one Education Secretary after another, from 1980 onward, made a point of insulting and belittling teachers, casting scathing insults on the whole profession and deluging them with bossy, ill-conceived directives. The first new primary curriculum, remember, proved impossible to fit in, and had to be trimmed; the first Assessment Tests for seven-year-olds were so badly designed they were withdrawn and revised after one outing. Nobody ever apologised for making the lives of teachers miserable for five years with this unpolished shambles.

Instead, they were constantly berated — with wild generalisations — for everything from their clothes to their spelling. Even the mild John Major married one of his first primary ministerial speeches with a cheap dig about "trendy teachers who have had their say [triumphant pause for effect]... and had their day". On top of that, a prudent and litigious society has made it a dangerous profession: you think you're an honest maths teacher but you could at any moment be sued for emotionally abusing a child by shouting at him, taken to court for defending yourself physically against a drunk parent, or suspended and your life permanently ruined by some random accusation of taking a sexual interest in your charges.

No wonder the men sheered off. Clever men, by and large, do not enjoy being insulted and underpaid (clever women, for mysterious biological reasons, appear to tolerate it better). Nor do decent men take kindly to a job in which they are so automatically mistrusted that even their own union advises them against hugging a crying five-year-old, lest they be branded Sex Beasts. Face it, Mr Byers: it will take more than vague cinema advertising campaigns and a few kind words to bring good men back into teaching.

And, of course, if you do start offering any special incentives to men it will be so resented by the majority of hard-working, faithful women teachers that you will have a whole new battle on your hands. Good luck. But don't think that it can all be done with a few kind words and a bit of clever presentation, because it can't.

Libby Purves

but that is not the intention. It is just that the real world is full of men as well as women, and that most of us feel that it is more natural, comfortable and stimulating for a school to have a mixed staffroom. Good male teachers, just by existing, help the boys to see that men can lead without violence and love knowledge without being whimsy. Moreover, a well-mixed staffroom — in a school of good morale — helps all the children to see that men and women can work together amicably. (This serves as a corrective to their other window on the adult working world, the television soap, very useful, especially now that even *Casualty* majors on a puting, bimbo doctor in tight whites who can't keep her hands off the male nurses.) But children are denied glimpses of a normal mixed-sex workplace if all their teachers are women: might as well grow up in a convent, like I did.

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Winston's lesson for William

Michael Gove questions a new Churchill myth

Revisionists normally argue that heroes have been over-rated, their efforts magnified by myth. Tonight Brian Walden seeks to strip away the myths surrounding the greatest political hero of this century, but his is an act of homage not humbling. In a new series for BBC2, *Walden as Heroes*, the former Labour MP argues that Churchill is not so much a hero with feet of clay as one with a tongue of fire.

The programme grips and challenges. Walden's admiration for Churchill is engaging but he advances an analysis of *Our Finest Hour* which is not only wrong about the past but dangerous for the future. Walden chooses to attack "the myth" that the British found in determination to resist the enemy in 1940. Instead, he argues that Churchill was a political magician who, by dint of his eloquence, sweet-talked a reluctant British people into support for the Second World War.

According to the Walden view "a lot of the British elite and a lot of the British people weren't prepared for a life or death struggle".

Really? If a minister had advanced a proposition as full of holes as that on his interview programme, Walden would have driven a division (thanks through it. Every test of public opinion in the period before Churchill's majestic rallying-calls suggests the people were as resolute as he was.

Support for Churchill, whose bellicose intentions were never hidden, ran at around 75 per cent in his polls well before he appropriated the Commons with his determination to fight on the beaches. In the words of Angus Calder, in *The People's War*, he was part of the situation, he did not transcend it, he expressed it. He did not create it.

The Walden analysis false conflates the appalling terror of the Tory Establishment with popular sentiment. If it were only a question of history, the quibble might not matter, but Walden acknowledges that the image of "heroic leader and heroic people bonded together" is the national myth. In assaulting it, Walden is attacking not just his own nation, but playing into the hands of its latter-day appeasers.

The suggestion that the British are acquiescent in foreign policy happy to follow the promptings of the Establishment and roused to fight only by the exceptional efforts of political illusionists is not just that Churchill was an appeaser but so, in her own way, were Margaret Thatcher and her supporters.

The euro is, of course, not proof of totalitarianism, but neither is it a force for emancipation. The case against precipitate European integration, and in particular the single currency, has been damaged before by dumsy parallels with the past. History has, however, become the new battleground where questions of national identity are decided and it is vitally important that the myth does not become a casualty of this conflict.

Opposition to European integration is as rooted and durable now as support for Churchill's defence was in 1940. It is difficult for it to believe Margaret Thatcher's views on foreign policy were popular just as it was difficult for Tories in the 1980s to believe Churchill's anti-appeasement stance, because the latter and some of patriotism and a belief that some things are not negotiable is uncommittal to the *hommes affaires* of the Establishment.

The British advocates of acquiescence in Europe today, the Heaths, Howes and Heel-tines, still argue that opposition to their project is a Frankenstein's monster. This jingoistic juggernaut, they believe, created by Margaret Thatcher, has been sustained by the press and is potentially fatal for the Tories. They have given this week to fight with Mr Blair in the correspondence columns.

Like the appeasers of the Thirties, today's wet grandees are among the most civilised of their party, the most agreeable of its senators. To lose them might seem to sacrifice the brightest and best, and for that?

Any Tory tempted to trifling fear of losing these latter-day appeasers should ask if history hides the civilised Chamberlain Cabinet in higher regard than the rough-houses around Churchill.

Derided and mocked in the Commons in his day, Churchill was ultimately triumphant. He referred to be right than to be popular, and that way he ended up both. He was attacked at the time with vehemence which seemed unjustified, if his views were genuinely out-of-date as his enemies alleged. Who breaks a dinosaur upon a wheel? Attacks are only vicious if they harm you may be right.

Margaret Thatcher in the past and William Hague now, provide bile from some Tories because they cannot bear the thought that opposition to the single currency might be right and popular. Yet a majority of the country, despite the popularity of the pro-European Mr Blair, remain opposed to monetary union. The nation still has a lion's heart, for it is not the time for silence from those who have the talent to roar.

Sleaze rider

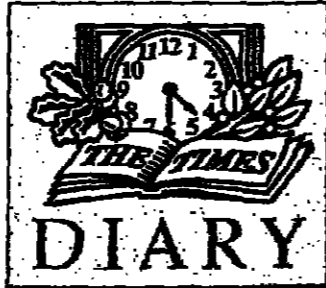
WILLIAM HAGUE's drive to dispel his party's image as sleaze-ridden has clearly failed to percolate to the sticks: a disgraced solicitor has just been elected as a member of a Conservative association in Essex. Keith Wilson was struck off by the Law Society in October for pocketing more than £30,000 from clients but will now stand guard over the coffers of the Aldham branch of Bernard Jenkin's Essex North constituency. Wilson admitted taking more than £11,000 bequeathed by a client to charities and a further £20,000 from an elderly victim whose money was used to pay the solicitor's own mortgage. He also drew up a couple's will which left their house to him. Wilson said he always intended to return the money, which he has since done.



Cashflow: Hague, Jenkin

Donning my white suit, I asked the Essex bagman whether his appointment was truly in the interests of the party. He replied that it was "a matter for the local members to decide" and his tarnished record had "no relevance at all". Such complacency seems widespread in Aldham; the local association declared "every confidence" in him and Jenkin himself insisted it was "a matter for my association alone". Hague still has some way to go before he overcomes the embarrassment that blighted John Major's reign.

GILLIAN SHEPHERD, the Shadow Leader of the Commons.



more serious subject of how much money she thought a student needed to survive, she greeted the question with silence.

Last laugh

TONY BLAIR's friends just become richer and richer. Ben Elton, the comedian and novelist, has been paid what is believed to be in the region of £1.1 million to move from Simon & Schuster to the rival publishing house, Transworld. Elton, a regular at Downing Street cocktail parties in a suitably creased Armani jacket, is clearly a man worth bidding for. A prolific writer — past publications include *Gaspin*, *Silly Cow* and *This Other Eden* — Elton's last novel, *Porcorn*, sold more than 100,000 copies and has been adapted into a West End play. "He's worth every

penny," purrs a corduroy jacket at Transworld, which will be publishing Elton's next literary offering, *Bliss from the Past*, later this year. "We're absolutely thrilled to have him on board." I'm sure the Labour Party beamcounters are rubbing their hands with glee.

WOLSEY-ITIS — the tendency towards self-aggrandisement — appears to be spreading throughout Lord Irvine of Lairg's domain. The Lord Chancellor's Department is advertising for a part-time editor for *Hearsay*, its in-house magazine, which it describes as



"It was a mistake to let Maudelson go to Florida"

"an opportunity to play a central role... in a department with an increasingly high profile in Whitehall and beyond."

Short order

VANITY is not a word I would normally have applied to Clare Short, but now I might have to reconsider. The International Development Secretary has spent £45,940 of her tiny budget finding out what the public think of her and her good works. Opinion Leader Research discovered through focus groups that women find Short too honest and militant, while men remember her for trying to ban Page 3 girls. How different from Short's days in opposition, when she railed against the media manipulators behind new Labour. "The obsession with the media and focus groups is making us look as if we want power at any price and don't stand for anything," she brayed. Short has come a long way; the research, for internal use only, ended up in true Whitehall tradition, in the newspapers.

Rock on...

TO SATISFY the intellectual appetites of its undergraduates, New York University has introduced a new



Strum fellow: Costello

degree course: the life and career of that old rocker Elvis Costello. "Christ!" he exclaims. "People should get marked down for doing my course. There must be something more improving than listening to my stuff. It's just a way of keeping people entertained by studying something that doesn't require as much concentration as something difficult, like algebra."

JASPER GERARD



TOUCH OF TURBULENCE

The Tory grandees may give Blair more trouble than Hague

William Hague's honeymoon flight had barely touched down at Heathrow when the bad fairies appeared to blight his other honeymoon, with his party. In a letter to yesterday's Independent, Lord Howe of Aberavon and 11 other Tory grandees raised the standard of revolt by declaring for early British membership of the single European currency. Praising Tony Blair's Government for "aspiring to lead in Europe", they promise help to "convert its positive rhetoric into action". Whenever a referendum on "a successful" EMU is called, they will campaign for a "yes" vote both within the Conservative Party and in the country.

Since Mr Hague has united the Shadow Cabinet behind a ten-year delay to let EMU prove itself before considering British membership, they are telling him to back down, or see the Tories as split as ever on Europe at the next election. Yet, were it not signed by such hoarily familiar political household names, the content of the letter would hardly merit publication. For on the key European question, which is what kind of European Union Britain should fight for, it carries debate forward not one whit.

The mantras about "positive European vision" and "ensuring that Britain is not marginalised in Europe" are repetitions of fixed positions held by men such as Sir Edward Heath, Michael Heseltine, Sir Leon Brittan, Lord Tugendhat and Lord Carrington who are nearing the end of their careers. What they share with their younger co-signatories, such as Kenneth Clarke and John Gummer, is failure to write either party or country. Their message, all of missed trains to an unquestioned European destination, has not altered in more than a decade of momentous European and national change.

The odd man out in this list, and the one who could mount a serious challenge to Mr Hague, is Chris Patten. He is the most considerable figure on the left of the party, has a reach into its centre that Mr Clarke cannot match and, as party chairman and as Governor of Hong Kong, has built up a solid administrative record. For Mr Patten, who learnt in Hong Kong not to associate with dyspeptic gerontocrats or to listen uncritically

to the received wisdom of the Establishment, this is a poor way to reposition himself in the Tory mainstream. It is a sound political maxim never, ever, to sign round robin letters. If Mr Patten, whose five years in Asia appeared to have taught him how much baggage the EU needs to shed if it is to compete, has things to say, he hardly needs to play ventriloquist's dummy to Lord Howe.

As a politician who sets store by substance — and whose liberalism chimes in other areas with Mr Hague's — Mr Patten should listen more carefully to the Hague case on EMU. There is not only economic risk attaching to EMU, but much political uncertainty. Two thirds of voters oppose joining EMU, not just because of their bitter memories of locking sterling into the ERM but because they understand the highly political nature of the gamble. They do not make the mistake of equating EMU with being part of Europe; they do not want "deeper union"; they do want options to be genuinely open, retaining Britain's freedom to say no if no should turn out to be the right response.

Between the Labour and Tory versions of "wait and see", it is thus Mr Hague's, not Mr Blair's, that most clearly safeguards Britain's interests. And the more Mr Blair and Gordon Brown adopt the "just wait for us" tone that they used at Luxembourg, the more true this will prove. Menacing though this puff of smoke may appear to Mr Hague, it may be Mr Blair who suffers most from the attentions of the Tory grandees. In domestic political terms, the Prime Minister's signal achievement has been to make "Europe" safely boring, assuring the public that no dramatic decisions will be taken in this Parliament. While the public is softly prepared for EMU, the last thing he wants is a wake-up call. Yet within this Parliament, the EU will decide what further fiscal as well as economic integration should accompany EMU, how to treat the "out" countries, and what liberty each EU country, including the new applicants, will have to decide how much "union" suits their national circumstances. Reveille may be just the signal that the country needs; but Mr Blair may not thank his new cheerleaders for sounding it.

ONE FOR THE BIN

Drink-driving reforms should be scrapped

Moderation in most things is a virtue. Moderation in the drinking of alcohol is particularly so: it is good for the health and good for oiling the wheels of social intercourse. Soon, though, if the Government has its bossy way, moderate drinking outside the home will be curtailed for anybody who needs a car. Cutting the drink-drive limit from 80mg to 50mg will dramatically affect the lives of tens of millions of law-abiding citizens.

Driving when drunk is a wholly unacceptable form of behaviour. It used not to be. As recently as 15 years ago, "one for the road" was a common request. Men who asked for soft drinks in pubs were wimps; and party guests who declined a top-up were killjoys. Now it is the drunken driver who has become the social pariah, and rightly so.

This change of public attitude has been thanks to a hugely successful government campaign. As a result, drink-related deaths on the roads have dropped from 1,643 in 1979 to 540 in 1996. Britons can be proud that their roads are now the safest in Europe, with fewer deaths even than in those countries that have a lower alcohol limit.

So it appears that Government has, for once, managed to strike that delicate balance between risk and freedom. Moderate social drinking is allowed, but the limit is widely respected and accidents are few and far between. Yesterday, the Scottish police released figures showing that just one in 200 drivers who were breathalysed over Christmas and the new year was over the limit — and this does not reflect the proportion of all drivers, since the police are allowed to stop only those who look as if they might be committing an offence.

There is still, however, a tiny core of drivers who ignore the law. They tend to be either reckless youngsters or middle-aged men to whom the new social mores have not percolated. Statistics show that the majority of drink-related deaths on the roads involve drivers whose alcohol level is more than double the present limit. These are the people who must be targeted if ministers want to reduce the rate of accidents.

But the genuinely drunk drivers will not change their behaviour if the legal level is cut to 50mg. They are already flouting the higher limit. Ministers should not even consider changing the law for moderate and responsible drinkers unless they can prove that the real danger comes from those whose alcohol level is between 50mg and 80mg.

To change the limit would risk inflaming the anger of millions of drivers, many of whom live in rural areas where a car is the only mode of transport. It would make criminals of people who are otherwise model citizens, set drivers against the police, and encourage them to lose respect for the law.

What is done in other European countries is irrelevant. There is no case for harmonisation between an island and the Continent. Moreover, it is the British record that should be envied abroad; in many other EU countries, drink-driving is punished far less seriously even if their limits are lower. That is why their death rates are higher.

In a climate of fiscal restraint, it is easy to see why ministers are tempted to pass laws since they are not allowed to spend money. But it is a temptation that they must resist. To paraphrase Lord Falkland, when it is not necessary to act, it is necessary not to act.

CINCINNATUS FROM CINCINNATI

Lithuania hails an American son as President

For few men has the tug of the mother country been as strong or lasting as for Valdas Adamkus. A silver-haired pensioner who spent 27 years in the US Environmental Protection Agency, he is now savouring a dramatic victory in Lithuania, the land of his birth. By the narrowest margin, he has been elected President. The presidential palace will be his first permanent address in Lithuania since he fled, as a teenager, from Soviet troops reoccupying the country in 1944.

Mr Adamkus was granted Lithuanian citizenship in 1992 and did not settle in his readopted homeland until last October, when he was finally allowed to contest the presidential election for the Centre Union party. Although he grew up among 300,000 other Lithuanians in Chicago, the largest community outside the Baltic, his Lithuanian is scratchy, his manner transatlantic and his experience of his country's travails under communism virtually nil. For intellectuals and nationalists his victory is bizarre. But for many people he has one shining attraction: the magic of America.

During the 45 years that East European countries were Moscow satellites, America was the beacon, the home of the exiles, the food plentiful and enterprise untrammelled. And when the Iron Curtain fell, and émigrés

began returning, they had the swagger of those who had seen the future and were out to make it work in the old country. Their carpetbagging did not always succeed. In 1990 Stanislaw Tyminski, a mysterious Polish-Canadian millionaire, almost won the race to succeed General Jaruzelski as Polish President. But although "Stan" rode in from the prairies to a final run-off with Lech Walesa, he could not, in the end, beat the founder of Solidarity.

Milan Panic had better luck in Belgrade two years later, but the Californian businessman's coup was short-lived. Called back, like Cincinnatus, to end the wars in the land of his birth, he was unable to make himself understood, politically or linguistically, and fell foul, as widely predicted, of the warlords then running Serbia. The unhappiest rein-pour may have been to Greece, where Andreas Papandreu returned from American universities, became Prime Minister — and proceeded to rage against his land of refuge.

Mr Adamkus's American panache may more than compensate for his unfamiliarity with Lithuania's recent past. It may be the confidence lent him by his Chicago years that has, for example, made him advocate better relations with Moscow. The narrowing of the Atlantic is part of the promise of better things in the postcommunist world.

Backing for EMU by Tory 'grandees'

From Mr Richard Allen

Sir, The problem of this country joining EMU, referred to in your report today ("Tory heavy brigade turns guns on Hague euro stand", later editions), can be encapsulated in two sentences, both of which have appeared recently in your columns.

John Lloyd (January 2) quoted David Marquand's dictum that "monetary union requires political union", while William Rees-Mogg (December 8, 1997) reported Newt Gingrich as pointing out that our constitution, from Magna Carta onwards, has emphasised individual freedom, and thus contrasts with those of continental Europe, which tend to stress the supremacy of the State.

One can understand and sympathise with industrialists who wish to benefit from a single currency. One can also feel the heavy hand of Brussels even before that single currency, with its political consequences, is upon us. So the question to answer is whether economic advantage outweighs the loss of the cornerstone of our constitution.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD ALLEN,
Hazel Rough, Hartfield TN7 4DU,
January 5.

From Mr Ronald Forrest

Sir, As an ordinary Conservative constituency chairman, I find it very hard to understand how certain so-called "grandees" of my party can back EMU when one recalls that so recently ERM did enormous damage both to the party and to the country.

Nor can I understand how they can remain members of the Conservative Party while supporting the leader of the Labour Party and opposing the leader of their own party on what is surely the most important issue to face this country since the Second World War.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD FORREST (Chairman,
Preseli Pembrokeshire Conservative
and Unionist Association),
Delfryn, Castle Morris,
Haverfordwest SA62 5ER,
January 5.

EU enlargement

From Mr Alan Fulwood

Sir, Your cogently argued leader today, "Mean streets", on the current problems and unrest in France gives cause for wider concern. France is sadly not alone in having economic policies which are perceived as having a disproportionately detrimental impact on some sections of the community. Parts of Germany which were formerly part of East Germany are but one other example.

The potential area for future discontent on a larger scale are those countries of Central Europe which were formerly dominated by the Soviet Union. Countries like the Czech Republic had a scarce 20 years of democracy before the imposition of Nazi tyranny. That was followed by Soviet tyranny. The present democratic system of government has been in place a bare eight years. But that country has been subjected to all of the same pressures which have been applied to France, plus some to which France has not been subjected. France is part of the EU. The Czech Republic is not.

Our Government is quite right to give priority to enlargement of the EU to include several countries of Central Europe. If this matter is not given top priority throughout the British presidency of the EU then unreasonable delays to this enlargement may arise.

The potential dangers in leaving the countries of Central Europe to sink or swim on their own without EU leadership and active political support would be unwise and could even exacerbate the problems in parts of the present countries of the EU.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN FULWOOD,
22 Trellawny Way,
Bembridge, Isle of Wight PO35 5YE,
January 2.

Council grievances

From Mr Richard Saxby-Soffe

Sir, There must be many with great hopes that their grievance against a local council will be redressed by the Local Government Ombudsman. Unfortunately all too often those hopes are dashed because, however great the injustice, if it is not technically "maladministration" the ombudsman cannot intervene.

A large group of elderly people, many frail and disabled, living locally in a block of retirement apartments will be severely disadvantaged by the council granting itself permission to extend an adjacent building. The ombudsman has adjudged that this does not qualify as "maladministration".

The 1974 Local Government Act should be so amended that an act of a council causing gross injustice should be within the jurisdiction of the ombudsman. Then his office would be transformed from a toothless mockery of an instrument of justice into an effective safeguard for the protection of the weak and vulnerable.

Yours faithfully,
R. SAXBY-SOFFE,
Long Acre, Long Garden Walk,
Farnham, Surrey GU9 7HX,
January 4.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Proposal to lower drink-drive limit

From Mr Richard Piercy

Sir, Bravo, Mary Ann Sieghart, for the well argued article on the absurdity of lowering the drink-driving limit ("Don't be a Killjoy, Mr Blair", January 1).

The reference by Baroness Hayman, Minister of Transport, to a hard core of offenders "who are way over the limit and causing a lot of death and destruction", quoted by Ms Sieghart, clearly demonstrates that the way ahead is not to penalise the law-abiding with a ludicrously low limit or to create two categories of drink-drive offence (report, January 5) but to push forward with the education on the dangers which has already reduced this type of accident spectacularly.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD PIERCY,
The Mount, West Street,
Corfe Castle, Dorset BH20 5HE,
January 5.

From Mr Graham Buxton

Sir, Mary Ann Sieghart suggests that the existing legal limit of 80mg per 100ml of alcohol in blood is equivalent to between two and four glasses of wine, "depending on your size". Much depends on the volume and strength of wine consumed before the accuracy of that statement can be sensibly assessed.

Department of Transport publications indicate that a 125ml measure of wine is equivalent to 15mg of alcohol in blood and it is simple enough to work out how many glasses

containing that quantity of wine can be consumed before a driver starts flirting with the existing law. A 6mg tolerance level in favour of the driver raises the existing legal limit to 80mg.

Research studied and accepted by a panel of experts representing most member states of the European Union in 1990 shows that drivers with 80mg of alcohol in their blood are 9.5 times more likely to cause a road crash than drivers with none. At 50mg, a driver is twice as likely to cause a crash. It would be totally irresponsible for any government to disregard that kind of evidence.

Government figures show that about 25 per cent of all drivers/drivers killed annually on UK roads have alcohol in their blood below 80mg. I wonder how many of these deaths were due to alcohol-impaired driving in addition to the 540 killed according to government statistics.

My 21-year-old daughter was killed by a drunken driver soon after my retirement from the police force 16 years ago. I have searched for an acceptable reason for her loss but have not found one. She died because a selfish, irresponsible driver chose to consume a few drinks knowing the possible consequences.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM BUXTON
(Co-founder, Campaign Against
Drinking (and Driving)),
Ringsmere Orchard,
Little Comberton,
Pershore, Worcestershire WR10 3HF,
January 1.

Breath-test statistics

From Mr George Edwards

Sir, Soon the police forces will be publishing the results of the annual Christmas breath-testing campaign.

As ever, police spokesmen will be both claiming success and expressing grave concern that a small, hard core of drivers continue to ignore warnings year after year. I am sure it would help the public to understand both of these views better if the police would publish two additional sets of statistics.

First, the average percentage of breath-tested drivers failing the test during the rest of the year. This would clearly demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of the targeted Christmas testing.

Secondly, the number of drivers stopped for a moving traffic offence but not subsequently failing a breath test, who were cautioned or prosecuted for the traffic offence. This would amply demonstrate that drivers are not randomly stopped, which of course is illegal.

As a result of publishing these statistics, and due public debate, we could be reasonably sure that next Christmas resources would be diverted into apprehending the small, hard core of persistent burglars, thieves and muggers who continue to ignore warnings year after year.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE EDWARDS,
20 Fairways Drive, Harrogate,
North Yorkshire HG2 7ES,
January 3.

Jobs programme

From the Minister for Employment

Sir, In his article today, "A hole in the heart of New Labour", David Willetts offers unjustified criticism of the philosophy and practice of our New Deal for the unemployed. In doing so, he ignores the failure of his party to tackle the underlying causes of long-term unemployment and to provide the skills and support needed to move people from dependence to independence. Unlike previous Conservative schemes, we will provide both a "gate-way" to prepare participants and proper follow-through afterwards.

Contrary to Mr Willetts's assertions, we have a substantial programme to get long-term unemployed adults back to work. The Chancellor has announced an extra £250 million to underpin that objective. Work and

education are central to this strategy. In addition, within our new employment zones, I am working with colleagues in the Department of Social Security to pioneer a programme which brings existing support for unemployed adults together to offer them opportunities of work, education or self-employment.

The New Deal is a substantial commitment from the Government — with the backing already of 9,000 companies — to making a lasting difference to unemployment. It is a shame that the Opposition can only carp in response.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW SMITH,
Department for Education
and Employment,
Sanctuary Buildings,
Great Smith Street, SW1P 3BT,
January 5.

Terror in Algeria

From the Executive Director of Article 19

Sir, Your editorial today, "Algeria's great fear", rightly draws attention to the need for truth and an end to the high degree of state censorship which has made it impossible to assess with any certainty the huge human cost of the civil war raging in Algeria, let alone help pave the way for peace.

The fact is, as government and GIA (Algerian Armed Islamic Group) forces alike have sought to conceal the facts of this dirty war, the Algerian media are a principal target of both sides. Between 1993 and the end of 1997, 59 editors and journalists have been assassinated, forced into hiding or exile abroad. Others have been jailed or had their newspapers

banished for failing to abide by an extreme and secret censorship decree issued by the military-backed Government. The effect has been to obscure responsibility for the major crimes that are being committed and to perpetuate the conflict by affording impunity to their perpetrators.

This appalling situation cannot be allowed to continue. International intervention is urgently required to bring the warring parties into discussion and we urge most strongly that the UK Government use its presidency of the EU to initiate such a discussion.

Yours faithfully,
FRANCES D'SOUZA,
Executive Director, Article 19,
Lancaster House,
33 Islington High Street, N1 9LH,
January 5.

Detention of Kaunda

From Mr David Keeling

Sir, It has indeed been disappointing to see how the present Zambian Government has treated the country's former President, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, including the completely unnecessary step of preventing him from standing in the most recent presidential election (leading article, "Zambian follies", December 29).

However, one cannot help wondering if, during his recent incarceration, Dr Kaunda was able to spare a few moments' thought for people like the late Simon Kapwepwe, the country's former Vice-President jailed for 11 months in 1970, and other political opponents who were not treated so kindly during the increasingly disastrous 27-year rule of Kaunda and his United National Independence Party.

Could this, just for a few days, have been an example of the bitter bit?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID KEELING,
Barnbrook Cottage,
Sharnbrook, Bedford MK44 1PG,
January 4.

Two cheers

From Mr Jack Palmer

Sir, Once again, I have been witness to a fine orchestra playing uninspiring music. My heart went out to the poor souls. While we have just one rendering to sit through, they have numerous practice sessions and a circuit of performances to endure. How dreadful for them to sense, as they must, the lack of enthusiasm of the audience.

I therefore propose a dual applause protocol, one for the musicians, the other for the music. It should be properly announced before the performance and upon a noticeboard on the stage. Then we could direct audience appreciation, enthusiastic or faint, where it is deserved.

Yours sincerely,
JACK PALMER,
6 Prospect Place,
Chapelhay, Weymouth DT4 8YJ.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Storm over Blair's holiday hideaway

From Mrs John Speller

Sir, William Rees-Mogg was probably correct (article, January 1) that Mr Blair chose the wrong time politically to be out of the country. Magnus Linklater, on the same page, was probably equally correct in suggesting that a visit to Orkney would do no harm. And now we have your report, "Blair venes beach snaps to brave storms at home" (January 5).

I fully support the idea of the Prime Minister taking a holiday and would like to suggest that in future he takes advantage of Cheques nearby. Not only would he be well positioned to keep a watchful eye on the affairs of state (some of which seem to have gone off course during his absence) but he would also be able to venture outside the estate itself (and I don't mean just to the Bernard Arms for a photo-opportunity) to learn what really goes on in the country and the countryside.

Yours faithfully,
MARILLA SPELLER,
Coram House,
Sandpit Lane, Bedlow HP27 9QQ,
January 5.

Morning assemblies

From Mr Andrew E. A. Selous

Sir, I am worried by your report (December 26) that the requirement of the 1988 Education Act for daily school worship of a broadly Christian nature is being challenged. Christians could bemoan that yet another strand of our Christian heritage may be about to be cast away.

There are practical steps that the Churches could take. Whilst I have sympathy for teachers who cannot in all sincerity perform these duties — and indeed it is surely better that the Christian part of assemblies be led by those with a living faith — why do not the Churches organise clergy, both serving and retired, as well as mature lay people who have an affinity with the young to go into schools to perform this vital task?

Schoolchildren, the Churches and teachers would all benefit, as no doubt would the moral health of our nation, preserving our Christian heritage for years to come.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW E. A. SELOUS,
52 Kyrle Road, SW11 6BA,
January 2.

Millennium matters

From Mr Edward Armitage

Sir, There is another, not unimportant, reason for more openness regarding the Millennium Dome project (Simon Jenkins, December 20; letters, December 26, 31, January 3).

Some of us may not be here to see it in its final stage. A pre-look, as far in advance as possible, would be most acceptable.

At 57, I write with some feeling, though I live in hope.

Yours sincerely,
EDWARD ARMITAGE,
11 Cambridge Road,
Ely, Cambridgeshire CB7 4JH,
December 28.

From Mr Geoffrey Hibbert

Sir, At last, by the release of the £25,000 millennium logo report and photograph, December 29, the mystery of the Mandelotome's contents is solved. It is to house a gigantic burger stall.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY HIBBERT,
11 Glenmore Close, Bolton BL3 4RY,
January 3.

Born again?

From Mr Mark Ritter

Sir, Mr Atkinson-Clark (letter today) should not be so sure about his place of birth.

For the first 40 years of my life I was born just outside Bath in the county of Somerset. For the next 22 years I was born in the county of Avon. In April 1996 there was yet another change, and my birthplace became North East Somerset.

If he is looking for certainties, Mr Atkinson-Clark had best stick with Benjamin Franklin's choices — death and taxes.

Yours faithfully,
MARK RITTER,
40 Canonbury Park South, N1 2JH,
January 5.

War of the sexes

From Mr Giles Wingate-Saul, QC

Sir, Your feature, "Flashmans need not apply" (January 2), compares Winchester College today with the school as it was in the 1930s and 1960s. The attitude towards the girls of St Swithun's School has certainly changed.

I seem to remember that when I was at Winchester in the early 1960s the school calendar had an entry which read: "Dance against St Swithun's." I cannot remember who won.

Yours faithfully,
GILES WINGATE-SAUL,
The Dower House,
Whitstock, Rusland,
Ulverston, Cumbria LA12 8LB,
January 2.



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK
January 3: The Rt Hon Sir Robert Fellowes was received by the Queen this evening when Her Majesty invested him with the insignia of a Knight Grand Cross of the Civil Division of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
January 5: The Prince Edward, Patron, this evening attended a Concert given by the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland at the Edinburgh Festival Theatre.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: King Richard II, reigned 1377-99, Bordeaux, 1367; St Joan of Arc, Domremy, France, 1412; John Seward, colonial Virginia, Willsborough, Lincolnshire, 1754; Jacques Etienne Montgolfier, balloonist, Annonay, France, 1745; Heinrich Schliemann, archaeologist, New-Buckow, Germany, 1822; Gustave Doré, artist and book illustrator, Strasbourg, 1832; Max Bruch, composer, Cologne, 1838; Carl Sandburg, poet, Galesburg, Illinois, 1878; Tom Mix, film actor, El Paso, Texas, 1881.

DEATHS: Baldassare Peruzzi, architect, Rome, 1536; Percy Burney, novelist and diarist, London, 1840; Harley Colebridge, writer, Worcester, 1849; Louis Braille, inventor of the reading system for the blind, Paris, 1852; Richard Henry Dana, writer, Rome, 1882; Gregor Mendel, geneticist, Brno, Czechoslovakia, 1884; Theodore Roosevelt, 26th American President, 1901-09; Oyster Bay, New York, 1919; Victor Fleming, film director, Phoenix, Arizona, 1949; A. J. Cronin, novelist, 1981.

Harold II was crowned King of England in succession to Edward the Confessor, 1066.
Samuel Morse gave the first public demonstration of his electric telegraphic system in 1844.
The new Sadler's Wells Theatre opened, London, 1931.

Dinner

The Athletecum
Mr Jonathan Ball was the speaker at a talk dinner of the Athletecum held last night in Pall Mall. Sir Alton Copisarow was in the chair.

Birthdays today

Major K.G. Adams, 78; Mr Malcolm Appleby, engraver, 52; Mr Rowan Atkinson, actor and comedian, 43; Mr Paul Azinger, golfer, 38; Lord Balfour of Burleigh, 71; Mr Roger Barton, MEP, 53; Mr A.J. Bowkett, chief executive, Beridford International, 47; Sir Ashley Bramall, former chairman, G.L.C., 82; Sir Robert Clark, former deputy chairman, 78; Mr John Cuthbert, criminologist and oil painter, 75; Mr Angus Dayton, writer and broadcaster, 42; Mr Kapi Dev, cricketer, 39; General Sir Martin Farnale, 69; Sir Hugh Fish, water scientist, 75; Mr Mike Foale, British born astronaut, 41; Mr Ronald Goldstein, joint founder, Superdrug, 78; Mr J. J. Swain, cricketer, 68; Mr Brian John, rugby player, 53; Mr P.J. Kavanagh, writer, 67; Sir Christopher Lewin, chairman, T.I. Group, 66; Miss Nancy Lopez, golfer, 41; Lord McColl of Dulwich, 65; Sir Hamish Macdonald, former financial secretary, Hong Kong, 38; Sir Brian Moffat, chairman, British Steel, 56; Vice Admiral Sir Michael Moore, 56; Mr Richard Newark, athlete, 34; Mr Martin O'Neill, MP, 53; Lord Plowden, 71; Mr Bill Sims, trade unionist, 74; Sir Brian Smith, former chairman, Cossin Group, 81; Miss Sylvia Syms, actress, 64; Mr Terry Venables, former England football coach, 55; Sir Woodrow, former chairman, Unilever, 86.

Premium Bonds

The following Premium Bond prize-winners were announced yesterday:
£100,000: 19MP 126993, winner has a holding of 45,330 bonds (total) from overseas: 495 25251, 551.
£25,000: 19MP 126993, winner has a holding of 45,330 bonds (total) from overseas: 495 25251, 551.

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A couple studying a photograph of Churchill at the launch of the exhibition yesterday

Churchill paintings go on show

MORE than 100 of Sir Winston Churchill's paintings went on show at an exhibition in London yesterday. The exhibition represents the largest loan exhibition of his work and includes pictures from the time he started painting at the age of 40 until his death in 1965. The pictures, gathered from private collections around the country and from the National Trust at Chartwell, offer an insight into the private world of a public figure and reflect his life, his friends and his travels. One painting in the exhibition — at Sotheby's until January 17 — is a view of the Great Hall at Blenheim, Churchill's birthplace. Churchill painted it in 1928, while working on his fourth volume of post-1914-18 memoirs. Several other views of Blenheim Lake are also included as well as paintings of Chartwell. He described painting as 'a joyride in a paint box' and painted at any time — when he was travelling, on holiday, staying with friends or waiting for election results. His subjects were varied and included still life, gardens, portraits, buildings and landscapes. The exhibition comes shortly after a Churchill painting fetched a world record price at Christie's, the 1927 landscape, which he gave to Lloyd George, sold for £150,000, almost three times its pre-sale estimate.

Latest wills

Vicountess Marchwood, of Aston Road, Colchester, left estate valued at £60,038 net.
Lord Hardinge of Pensance, senior officer of Collins, Langens, Macmillan (London) 1968-86, of Beshall-on-Sea, East Sussex, left estate valued at £24,279 net.
Lady Elizabeth Luttrell, of Iichen Abbey, Winchester, left estate valued at £11,128 net.
Mary Miriam Moran, of Buryton, 1250, left estate valued at £12,254 net.
The Rev John W. Wainwright, of the Rev John Wainwright, Vicar, Altonwood, left estate valued at £12,254 net.
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School news

Benenden School
Term starts open morning for parents of primary school children will be held on February 7 and March 14. The Founders' Lecture 'Heroes' will be given by Mr Michael Hastings on March 4. The School Play The Boyfriend will be performed on March 12, 13 and 14. All seniors will take place on May 16. All seniors are warmly invited, especially those from 1973, 1974, 1975, 1983, 1988 and 1993.

Churches' College

Lent Term at Churches' College begins today. The College entrance examination will take place on Saturday, January 10. Half term is from February 14 to February 22. The Captain of Boys Hockey is Edward Rogers and the Captain of Girls Hockey is Les Swain. The OCC dinner at the East India Club will be held on Friday, May 8, and bookings can be made through the College office. Term ends on Friday, March 27.

The King's School, Canterbury

The Lent term began on Monday, January 5. A Confirmation Service will be held in the Cathedral on Sunday, March 8, at which the Archbishop of Canterbury will officiate. Term will end on Saturday, March 21.

Lytmer Upper School, W6

The Spring Term commenced today at Lytmer Upper School, and ends on March 26. The Middle School will stage The Afternoon on March 6. The Sixth Form will stage The Boyfriend on March 19 and 20. There will be a Choral Concert on March 18 by the Lytmer & Godolphin Choirs. The European Work Experience Exchanges with students from Berlin, Madrid and Paris occur at Half Term, when the 1st XV Rugby Tour is to the South of France. Details on Admissions procedures are available from the Registrar, on 0181 741 851. The School has charitable status and provides quality education.

Pipers Corner School, High Wycombe

The Spring Term begins today at Pipers Corner. Entrance tests for 11+ and 12+ entry will be held on Saturday, January 24, in the Main School. The Right Rev. Keith Brown, Bishop of Hereford, Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Oxford, will be conducting the Confirmation Service on Thursday, March 26, at 2pm at St Michael and All Angels, Church, High Wycombe. The Rev Pat Fletcher, NSM, Dean, Oxford, and the Rev Canon Richard Jones, Vicar, Oxford, will be officiating for the 11+ and 12+ entry. The Rev Robin Thomas, Priest-in-Charge, Halesowen (Truro) retired December 31.

Church news

The Rev Colin Way, part-time Curate, Fulham Market, Fulham St Mary and St Martin (Newbury) also holds part-time curacies at St Michael's and St Andrew's (Newbury). He will be officiating at the wedding of Mr and Mrs John and Mrs Susan (Newbury) on Saturday, January 10, at 11am at St Michael's and St Andrew's (Newbury). The Rev John Wainwright, Vicar, Altonwood, left estate valued at £12,254 net. The Rev John Wainwright, Vicar, Altonwood, left estate valued at £12,254 net.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr E.D.H. Case and Miss C.C. Wright. The engagement is announced between Edwin, only son of Mr Jeremy Case, of New Martin, and Mrs Janet Case, of Owsbury, Shropshire, and Charlotte, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Nicholas Wright, of Fairbairn, Essex.
Mr M.E.O. Davies and Miss K.N. Begley. The engagement is announced between Michael, younger son of Dr Alan and Dr Angela Davies, of Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, and Kirsten, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Edward Begley, of Peakhurst, New South Wales.

Mr B.E. Debell and Miss A.V. Ford

The engagement is announced between Bruce, only son of Mr and Mrs Robert Debell, of Collingham, West Yorkshire, and Alice, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Ford, of Wimbledon, London.

Mr R.B.S. Fisher and Miss E.G. Sheppard

The engagement is announced between Roland, son of Mr and Mrs Benjamin Fisher, of Beaumont-on-Naze, Essex, and Emily, daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Sheppard, of Fingest, Oxfordshire.

Mr R.W. Harris and Miss A.C. Cardus

The engagement is announced between Robert, second son of Mr and Mrs David Harris, of Oak House, Bournemouth, Hampshire, and Angela, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Cardus, of Cat Street House, Upper Hatfield, East Sussex.

Mr M.L. Haswell and Miss D.T. Sandy

The engagement is announced between Matthew, younger son of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Sandy, of Hankham, Essex, and Sophie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Paul Black, of New Pals-Lodge, Manley, Cheshire.

Mr J.C.S. Hillman and Miss H.A. Ede

The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of the late Mr David Humer, CBE, QC, and Mrs Janet Humer, of London, SW1, and Edwina (Pump), younger daughter of the late Mr David Stammers and Mrs Nooren Skinner, of Hawthorntree, Kent.

Mr P.L. Maxwell and Miss L.J. Phillips

The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Wing Commander and Mrs Anthony Maxwell, of Alderney, Channel Islands, and Linda, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Thomas Phillips, of North Seaton, Northumberland.

Legal appointment

Mr Michael Francis Handley has been appointed a District Judge on the North Eastern Circuit.

Legal retirements

Judge Geoffrey Blass and Judge Peter East have retired from the South Eastern Circuit.

Royal Motor Yacht Club

The following have been elected flag officers of the Royal Motor Yacht Club for 1998. Commodore: Mr P.F. Phillips, Vice-Commodore: Mr P.M. Seabrook and Mr J. Galloway.

BMD5: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1882
FAX: 0171 481 9313

BIRTHS

SAVAGE - On January 2nd at the Portland Hospital, a daughter, Sophie Louise, to David and Kate (nee Reynolds), a daughter, Alexandra Rebecca, to David and Kate (nee Reynolds), a daughter, Sophie Louise, to David and Kate (nee Reynolds).

DEATHS

BEALE - Debra (Daisy) Beale, nee Beale, died on January 2nd at the Portland Hospital, aged 41 years, after a long illness. She was the wife of the late John Beale, a son of the late John Beale and the late Margaret Beale. She was the mother of Robert and John Beale.

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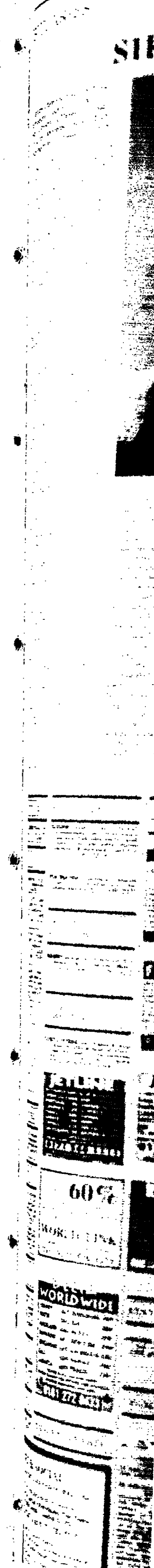
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WORLDWIDE TICKETS FOR SALE
FRANCE ENGLAND
All tickets for sale. Contact: Tel: 0171 275 4123



OBITUARIES

SIR JAMES DUNNETT

Sir James Dunnett, CBE, CMG, Permanent Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Defence, 1966-74, died on December 30 aged 83. He was born on February 12, 1914.



James Dunnett's distinguished career lay on the managerial side of Whitehall. He never served in the central departments, such as the Treasury, and was very far from being an ivory-tower marmoset. Rather, he showed throughout his working life — whether at the wartime Air Ministry, the Ministry of Supply, the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Labour or the Ministry of Defence — that he was par excellence a man who solved problems and got things done. Imaginative in his thinking, always open to new ideas, and with a ferocious appetite for work, he combined an ability to seize on the major issues and force them through, with an almost brutal energy and directness.

Ludovic James Dunnett came from a family of distinguished public servants. His father, also Sir James Dunnett, was an outstanding member of the Indian Civil Service, both his elder brother, George, and his younger brother, Denzil, had notable careers in the Home Civil Service and Diplomatic Service respectively.

The middle brother, "Ned", as he was known, was educated at Edinburgh Academy and University College, Oxford. His father was, like so many members of the ICS, obliged to depend on relations for the upbringing of his children, and the brothers were brought up largely by aunts in Edinburgh.

Dunnett joined the Air Ministry in 1936. Within a year he became private secretary to Arthur Street, the Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Air — an appointment he held for seven years, which included four hectic war years. Street had an infinite capacity for hard work, a lesson which his young private secretary quickly mastered and later developed in his own career. As many of his own private secretaries subsequently discovered, Dunnett was frequently first in and last out in whichever department he served.

Transferred to the Ministry of Civil Aviation in 1945, he became an under-secretary at the age of 34 and five years later a Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Supply. He was there responsible for the research, development and procurement of aircraft, guided weapons and electronics for the three Services.

In 1953 Dunnett moved again to the Ministry of Transport and Civil Avia-

tion as a Deputy Secretary and in the following year succeeded Gilmour Jenkins as the Permanent Secretary at the early age of 45. It was perhaps this appointment which, in retrospect, Dunnett most enjoyed and in which he made the most direct personal impact.

For most of the four years he spent in his ministerial role Ernest Marples. The two men, dissimilar in so many ways, were a formidable combination, well suited to the task of introducing new policies for inland transport. It was a notably productive period and Dunnett's contribution, not least in reorganising the department and in sternly redeploying its manpower, was impressive.

In 1962 Dunnett was appointed Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Labour. At that time, the Ministry was faced with new problems — the first stages of an incomes policy, increasing concern about industrial relations and criticism of the failure to provide adequate industrial training.

Dunnett's qualities were admirably suited to the task of changing the

attitudes and policies of the Ministry of Labour to suit the changed circumstances. At the same time, he developed excellent relations with those he had to deal with on both sides of industry, not only management but also trade unionists. Indeed, he clearly felt an affinity with the practical and down-to-earth attitude of the leaders of the major trade unions, and it was a measure of the relations that he established with them that he was Vic Feather's regular guest at the Rugby League Cup final.

Although much yet remained to be done in these areas, Dunnett was moved again in 1966 to become Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Defence. Two years earlier, this large department had been created by amalgamating the three Service departments and the former Ministry of Defence, but at that time little more than the co-location of the top levels of the four previously separate ministries had been achieved: the structure of the new department was essentially federal.

During the next eight years Dunnett devoted his immense energy and experience to the problems of creating a more unified organisation, while at the same time dealing with the complications of defence policy and the continuous pressures for reductions in defence expenditure. On the organisational side, it must have given Dunnett great satisfaction that before he left the Ministry of Defence, the creation of the Procurement Executive as part of the Ministry of Defence brought the procurement of equipment for all the Services within the responsibility of the Secretary of State for Defence.

Dunnett was equally concerned with the wellbeing of the Civil Service. When Harold Wilson decided to set up a committee to inquire into the service, under the chairmanship of Lord Fulton, he was a particularly apposite choice as a member.

The Fulton Committee sat for two years, 1966-68. Dunnett had plenty of other worries, but he found the time, somehow, to play a leading part in the deliberations of the committee. It was not, however, an especially enjoyable experience, and he always felt that his colleagues in the Civil Service never realised how hard the going was. After the report was published he continued to play an active part, in spite of an occasional feeling of frustration, in helping to see that the reforms to which he attached importance went forward.

Dunnett was essentially a shy individual who often found the position of a Permanent Secretary somewhat lonely. In retirement, he was a member of the Social Science Research Council, 1977-82; chairman of the International Maritime Industries Forum, 1976-79; and president of the Institute of Manpower Studies, 1977-83.

In March 1983 Dunnett was questioned by Scotland Yard detectives over a brief sexual encounter he had had with a male transvestite prostitute in the early years of his retirement. Official concern over this liaison stemmed from the claim of the prostitute, known as Vikki de Lambray, that a Soviet spy had also been among his clients at that time, a circumstance which might, given Dunnett's former position at the Ministry of Defence, have constituted a security risk. In the event, Ministry of Defence officials satisfied themselves that Dunnett's actions had constituted no threat to national security.

James Dunnett married, first, Olga Adair in 1944. She died in 1980. He married, secondly in 1984, Lady Clarisse Grover. She survives him, together with two stepchildren.

ALAN FLUCK

Alan Fluck, artistic director of Youth and Music, died from a heart attack on December 29 aged 66. He was born on February 3, 1932.



THOUSANDS of people owe a twin love of music and painting to the enthusiasm of Alan Fluck, whose promotion of "cushion concerts" at the Royal Academy between 1980 and 1993 under the auspices of Youth and Music helped to prove that there need be nothing remotely stuffy about the appreciation of either art.

With sponsorship from WH Smith, Fluck provided bright orange cushions in the middle of the gallery floor. The audience, perched on them attentively — if not in the case of older members always comfortably — heard performances from musicians of the calibre of the percussionist Evelyn Glennie, the guitarist Nicola Hill and the violinist Kyung Wha-Chung.

By presenting concerts in this informal way and setting them in such auspicious surroundings, Fluck was demonstrating his ingrained and deeply held belief that in every person there is a capacity to appreciate and enjoy good music. It was a matter of great personal sadness for him that the concerts ceased in 1993 when the sponsors diverted their energies elsewhere.

Reginald Alan Paul Fluck was born in Tonymandy, the son of a tailor. While he was still young the family moved to Cheltenham. He subsequently studied organ and composition with Herbert Howells at the Royal College of Music, from where he graduated to be music master and later director of music at Farnham Grammar School in 1951.

The headmaster at the time, George Baxter, was a scientist who was somewhat bemused by Fluck's enthusiasm for music. Whenever Fluck bounded into his sitting room with yet another extravagant musical idea, Baxter's wife, Peggy, would implore the headmaster to "let him have a go". Before long the school witnessed performances of Benjamin Britten's cantata *St Nicolas*, with the composer

and Peter Pears in attendance and, with the help of the local girls' grammar school, Britten's stage piece *Let's Make An Opera*.

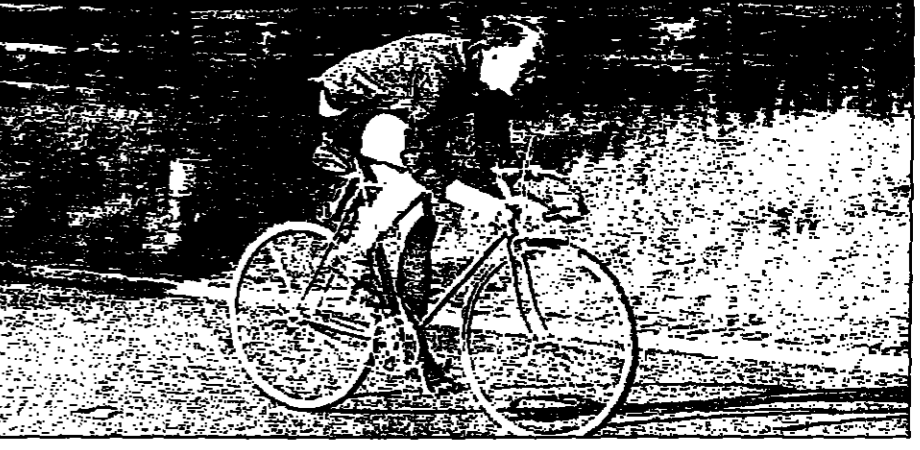
Fluck arranged countless premieres and innovative performances at Farnham, and counted among his friends such musicians as Leonard Bernstein and Gian Carlo Menotti. He was also responsible in 1961, with Hedley Wilds, for setting up the Farnham Festival to create new music for use in schools and to involve serious composers with children's music-making. A biennial affair that ran for a decade, it attracted composers such as Sir Malcolm Arnold, Lennox Berkeley, Theo Musgrave and Andrzej Panufnik, resulting in nearly 50 new commissions. Fluck involved everyone in the community, not just regular music lovers.

In 1967 he spotted a disused maltings in Farnham and, after what amounted to a small case of breaking and entering, had a vision of it being used as a concert hall. After a battle with the local authority, the maltings was saved from demolition. In 1976 it opened as an arts venue.

Alan Fluck composed several works for different instruments and wrote an introduction to modern music entitled *The Sweet Sour Music*. In his youth he had written a musical based on Terry Hughes's book *Love on the Dole*. It was performed at the Nottingham Playhouse in 1970 and was revived at Woking in 1995. With his boundless energy and ceaseless support of youngsters engaged in music-making, Fluck came to the attention of Sir Robert Mayer, the founder of Youth and Music, who was by then in his nineties. Modelled on the European organisation Federation Internationale des Jeunes Musicales, with which Fluck later became involved, Youth and Music seeks to support concerting and operagging among the young by arranging brec bookings, discounts and other concessions.

Fluck joined Youth and Music in 1971, and was one of the creators of the charity's Stage Pass scheme, which last year alone enabled more than 50,000 young people throughout the country to attend live performances. But it was the Royal Academy cushion concerts, eventually expanded to the Laing Art Gallery in Newcastle upon Tyne, the City Art Gallery in Leeds and the Mappin Art Gallery in Sheffield, that were widely seen as Fluck's greatest triumph.

GEORGE FLEMING



George Fleming, former international cyclist, British champion and record holder, died on December 28 aged 80. He was born on May 9, 1917.

GEORGE FLEMING, together with Reg Harris, laid the foundation of Britain's international cycling renaissance in the late 1940s. The pair were at opposite ends of the sport's spectrum. Fleming never lost his brilliance as a road time trialist, and this was coupled with an ability to dominate distance events on the track. Harris, on the other hand, was a pure sprinter and started his run of five world titles in 1947.

The year 1947 also capped Fleming's amateur career (he never turned professional) when he won the Paris-London race. The 235-mile event was run in three stages over three days: Paris-Lens, Lens-Calais, Folkestone-London. Fleming's victory demonstrated his strength as a time trialist which he was able to put to good use on the second stage, when he broke clear from a powerful group of French riders with 17 miles remaining to the day's finish in Calais.

The French obviously considered that the Briton had set himself an impossible task, believing that he would crack during the final difficult miles to the coast. They proved wrong and a tired Fleming, too fatigued even to raise his arm in a victory salute, finished 2 minutes and 3 seconds clear of Georges Desjeuxes (France). The win gave Fleming the overall lead on aggregate time by 1 minute 33 seconds from Desjeuxes.

The following day's final stage of 57 miles was run as an individual time trial but police insisted that the finish was to be on the outskirts of South London. The last miles on the run-in to the Herne Hill track were discounted but riders' times over one lap of the track were added to those recorded earlier.

Fleming proved unbeatable, winning not only the race against the clock but also taking overall victory by 3 minutes 27 seconds. Observers at that time were right in their forecast that Fleming's victory "marked a turning point in British cycling history". However, at the age of 30, Fleming decided it was time to wind down his racing programme. But he was not lost to the sport and became Britain's road race team manager, taking riders to world championships and the Route de France, the then amateur equivalent of the Tour de

France. Later he was closely associated with the bicycle manufacturing industry, finally retiring in 1983.

George Fleming was born in Battersea, and in 1936 rode daily to work on the Great West Road for Sperry Gyroscopic. His speed prompted a local cyclist to encourage him to join the Uxbridge Wheelers and in his first year as a member Fleming won the club championships at 25, 50, 100 miles and 12 hours.

A year later he joined the Belle Vue Cycling Club where he made his reputation as a virtually unbeatable in road trials. He was denied the opportunity of winning a British time trial title: there were none before the war.

But in 1938 Fleming was supported by wellwishers in his confident bid to break the world amateur one hour record. He was successful, covering 26 miles 884 yards on the Vel d'Hiver track, Paris. In 1939 he won his first British titles on the track: the 25 miles

scratch race and the 50 miles tandem paced championship. Fleming, was in a reserved occupation during the war but was not a regular competitor in the few events organised. But 1946 saw him make a successful return to competition and he again triumphed in the tandem paced 50 miles championship and was a member of the Belle Vue 4,000 metres pursuit team gold medalists. He twice broke the national 50 miles time trial record, on the second occasion becoming the first rider to beat the "magic" two hours with a time of 1 hour 59 minutes 14 seconds.

Fleming later managed British teams on the Continent. There, his quiet but firm approach to discipline and tactics laid the foundations of a new era of British success. He is survived by his second wife Lilian ("Billie") Dovey, whom he married in 1963, and two sons from his first marriage.

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January 6, 1931

January 6, 1931... Call 0171 277 1237

Sadler's Wells had stood derelict, gaping holes in its roof, until a start was made in 1924 to attract public donations and lay down plans for a rebuilt theatre

Sadler's Wells had stood derelict, gaping holes in its roof, until a start was made in 1924 to attract public donations and lay down plans for a rebuilt theatre. The theatre was built in 1884 by the architect John Davenport and was one of the finest examples of Victorian theatre architecture in London. It had been abandoned since 1924 and was in a state of complete ruin. In 1924, a group of enthusiasts, including the actor-manager Sir Herbert Tree, began to raise money for the reconstruction of the theatre. The project was supported by the public and the theatre was rebuilt and reopened in 1931. The reconstruction was a landmark event in the history of the theatre and it has since become one of the most important theatres in London.

where miracles were said to be worked. In 1683 a lucky man named Sadler, having bought the property to build thereon a "Musick House," rediscovered the well, which rose from a spring with medicinal properties. Sadler found a fortune in the provision of its waters of wine to remove their taste, and of musical entertainment. In 1765 one Rossmore rebuilt the wooden house with brick. The well, its mouth now guarded by an iron plate, is preserved in the north-west corner of the present pit. Joe

Grimaldi, the greatest clown in history, may be said to have brought up at Sadler's Wells, where his father was a monkey in 1781 at the age of four years, and was closely associated with the theatre until his retirement and death. Edmund Kean and most of the famous actors of that period played frequently at Sadler's Wells. Later on it attained still greater celebrity, when Samuel Phelps, as actor-manager, made it London's home of Shakespeare from 1844 to 1862. Phelps produced at Sadler's Wells no fewer than 30 of Shakespeare's plays. Only Miss Baylis, by completing the Shakespearean cycle at the Old Vic, has beaten that achievement. To-night, Sadler's Wells will take rank beside its "twin" (now half a century old) as a people's theatre. A people's theatre is a theatre in which the performances are good enough, and the prices are low enough, for everybody. Sadler's Wells is now such a theatre; and it is not only a people's theatre but also a people's opera house.

National Exhibition Centre Birmingham

National Exhibition Centre Birmingham... Call 0121 256 0666

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Sally Watts looks at how innovation and advice can help entrepreneurs to prosper

Hi-tech link gives flower growers way to bloom

CREATION of an online virtual marketplace will enable small, independent British flower growers to compete with foreign importers in supplying produce to big businesses such as supermarkets. At present, small growers of flowers, pot plants and foliage have difficulty securing long-term contracts with corporate buyers. Their capacity to offer continuity and volume is limited, so buyers tend to order produce in bulk from countries such as Turkey and The Netherlands. What is missing is a way to combine the output of small suppliers to meet the needs of wholesalers. This is now being remedied through a programme, which is nearing completion, involving De Montfort University, Leicester, which provides technological input and graphic design; Nationwide Produce, as wholesaler; and Spalding Auction, as sales agent. The consortium has set up through the Information Society Initiative and financed by an ISI Multimedia Demonstrator Programme award of about £30,000. The university achieved this last year for its idea to create a virtual market-

place, Hortinet, on the World Wide Web. Everyone should benefit. Britain's horticultural trade balance will improve; more effective market routes will result in regular orders, plus a worldwide customer base, enabling smaller UK growers to enhance their profits; and the "just in time" factor will mean that multiples and their customers enjoy fresher floristry. "Imported flowers are packed tightly for the journey and are all ready into their vase life when they go on sale," says Professor Stephen Brown, head of media and IT at the university. "No one is doing anything like this in the world. There is interest from the National Farmers' Union and smaller growers. Many are family concerns wanting to remain independent, but willing to pool their products." Growers will feed in information on produce, growing conditions and packaging. The system will hold this information, including quality, quantity, price and availability. Bonus features will include instant online purchasing, e-mail and desktop video conferencing. The third party - Spalding Auction in the demonstrator programme - will manage the database, monitor quality and mediate on price. Growers without a personal computer will feed into the system by fax, says Professor Brown, who is working on the project with Dr Nick Cheffins, an agriculture lecturer. They foresee online virtual marketplaces serving other short-life industries, such as fisheries and fruit production. The programme will be demonstrated later this year at the British Growers Look Ahead trade fair.



Pipe dream: but Simon Anderson and his Quatroscreen partners have seen their initial £1.250 investments develop into turnover of almost £250,000

"WE WANTED to develop simple products from humble ideas - a lot of them are very good," says Simon Anderson, managing director of a small engineering business at Dudley, West Midlands. His company, Quatroscreen, illustrates how a business can thrive on innovation. It was set up by four men with engineering backgrounds after their employer went into receivership in 1993. Each put in a modest £1,250, current turnover is almost £250,000. "We design bespoke solutions for problems connected with water and lifting gear,

Engineering idea cleans up

and work on equipment for oil rigs," explains Mr Anderson, who is 32 and has a Higher National Diploma in mechanical and production engineering. His three co-directors are craft or technical engineers. Their main invention is a revolutionary floating boom for keeping waterways clean, collecting floating litter more effectively than existing manual methods. Their invention, called Quatroscreen, has developed from being a good idea by Andy Bate, one of the owners, to the prototype stage with the help of George Foster, then Innovation and Technology Counselor with Dudley Business Link. He found specialist suppliers and equipment, including a second-hand profile cutting machine for £2,600; a new one would have cost £40,000. He also helped the partners to patent their idea and, in 1995, encouraged them to apply for a DTI Smart (Small Firms Merit Award for Research and Technology). This won them funding of £35,000, which they used for equipment, patenting and research. It also helped them to pay their way. Mr Anderson recalls: "We had been trying to develop an idea while earning our living. The Smart award gave us time to work on our inventions." After trials on the local canal network, Quatroscreen has

been sold to water companies and small sewage works in towns and villages. In November it was shown in public for the first time, at the International Water Exhibition at the NEC, Birmingham. Sadly, Mr Foster has died, but Peter Moore, his successor, is advising the company on its latest innovative idea. Meanwhile the personal business adviser, Malcolm Hunt, has helped the owners to restructure the business; they are now recruiting a marketing manager as their fourth employee. Quatroscreen: 01384 480326.

Learn overseas expertise with help of DTI scheme

INTERNATIONAL secondment is a Department of Trade and Industry initiative enabling companies to learn from new technology and best management practice overseas. Key staff are placed with leading companies for up to a year, with financial help, particularly for firms with fewer than 250 employees. There is also help with staff replacement during secondment as well as language training. Coopers & Lybrand, which manages the project, says that some companies have as few as 12 employees; one

company has only four. A number of engineers take part in the scheme, several with Japanese companies, while a Nottingham quantity surveyor is in Shanghai to study project and cost management and engineering. Another employee is in Norway, learning more about production techniques. Similarly, one member of a small pasta-making family business in Belfast is in the US to improve marketing techniques with a view to exporting. Details: 0171-213 1851.

International platform beckons for top products

THROUGH the Design Council's Millennium Products Initiative, scientists and businesses could become internationally recognised by submitting an innovative product or service launched during the past two years for assessment by a selection of 50 panelists. Those of world-class design and innovation will be shown at the Millennium Exhibition. Various schemes are leading their support, most government-funded through the DTI. At Business Links, 84 information and technology counsellors and 68

design counsellors operate. A useful source of finance is Smart (Small Firms Merit Award for Research and Technology), with £31 million for 1997-98; a total of 250 award winners are expected in the current year. Another source of finance is Aramis 1, a new venture capital fund set up to stimulate growth in smaller technology companies. Applications will be invited in the coming weeks. Details about the Millennium Products initiative can be obtained by telephoning 0181-580 8826.

Campaign tells firms design is a tonic for profits

By BRIAN COLLETT

THE message that better design means healthier profits is being taken to companies in North London. Prerana Phadnis, design counsellor with Business Link North London, regrets that although big corporations and the Spice Girls thrive on good branding, many small businesses overlook the benefits of design - such as good letterheads. Having promoted design as a trading tool through the Business Link, Mrs Phadnis is now being approached by companies for advice. She said: "We visit them to talk about design. Then we review how they already use it and help them to access good-quality designers, both in products and image. We tell them it should fit into their business plan. Many of them are using design for the first time." Mrs Phadnis and her team have seen about 50 companies in Enfield, Barnet and Haringey at a subsidised £250 fee. The businesses range from medical equipment manufacturers to service industries, including estate agencies. About 20 have invested in design. The Business Link quotes Design Council findings that half of small businesses think design is a waste of money but that an extra 1 per cent of turnover devoted to it raises sales and profits by 3 to 4 per cent over five years. Mrs Phadnis attributes the reluctance to a fear of the unknown. "Once you use it, we find you appreciate the benefits," she said. The North London campaign is being helped by design seminars run by Business Link London; the umbrella group for the capital's seven Business Links. Tower System Furniture is one firm that has used the service. It commissioned a recommended two-man operation to design a brochure for a new furniture range and later called the designers again for an exhibition stand.



BUSINESS TO BUSINESS

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

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Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, partially cut off. Includes text like 'UK'S', 'Specifications', and '0800'.

The race is on for the £10,000 FA Cup prize

The story so far

Did you survive FA Cup third round?
Well, I'm not sure how it happened, but...
All your players were eliminated first?
Quite the reverse, actually. They're all still in the competition, although the Villa players left it a little late. But at least they got a replay, which gives you an extra opportunity to earn points from them.
Exactly. A number of my players are in that happy position, actually.
Such as?
David Seaman. A clean sheet against Port Vale, and a chance to keep another one in the replay. And get the win bonus of course. So he'll get more points than he would have done if Arsenal had won outright.
I think I hear the sound of chickens being counted.
Not at all; simply the faith of a manager in his players.
So it's all good news, then?
Well, not quite. I could have done without Wigan Athletic getting a couple of consolation goals at Blackburn. That's messed up my calculations about Colin Hendry.
I think you're overlooking the romance of the Cup.
And what about Emery? A nation applauded.
I didn't. When I'm managing a team of premier league players, I'm in the Kenny Dalglish school of romance. I was banking on Hartson for a netful of goals.
Will you be changing the team for the next round?
I think I might give a vote of confidence to the players who have done well for me up to now.
Even though West Ham will be away to Man City?
No problem there.
And Arsenal would be away to QPR or Middlesbrough?
I have faith.
And your cheap Crystal Palace defenders might find Leicester harder to keep quiet than Southampton were?
No worries - Leicester aren't scoring many goals.
Exactly - you've got a Leicester midfielder and manager in your twelve.
Good point. But I can't lose there, then, can I?
You might do better to pick a winner and transfer some Scottish players in. Don't forget the Scottish cup.
Celtic at home to Greenock Morton; Hibs against Raith Rovers.
Another good point. Taking a considered look at things, it could well be a question of goodbye Dean Gordon, hello Tom Boyd.
What happened to your belief in your players?
Faith may be able to move mountains, but I doubt if it can make Palace win a home game against another Premiership team.

One ITF entrant has already clocked up 79 points in the FA Cup league - but there is still time to enter your team if you don't delay

The first weekend of the Interactive Team Football FA Cup League has come and gone, and the busiest period of the football season is upon us. From now until the end of the season, there will be an overlap of games in league and cup as replays and re-arranged fixtures fill up the midweek schedules.

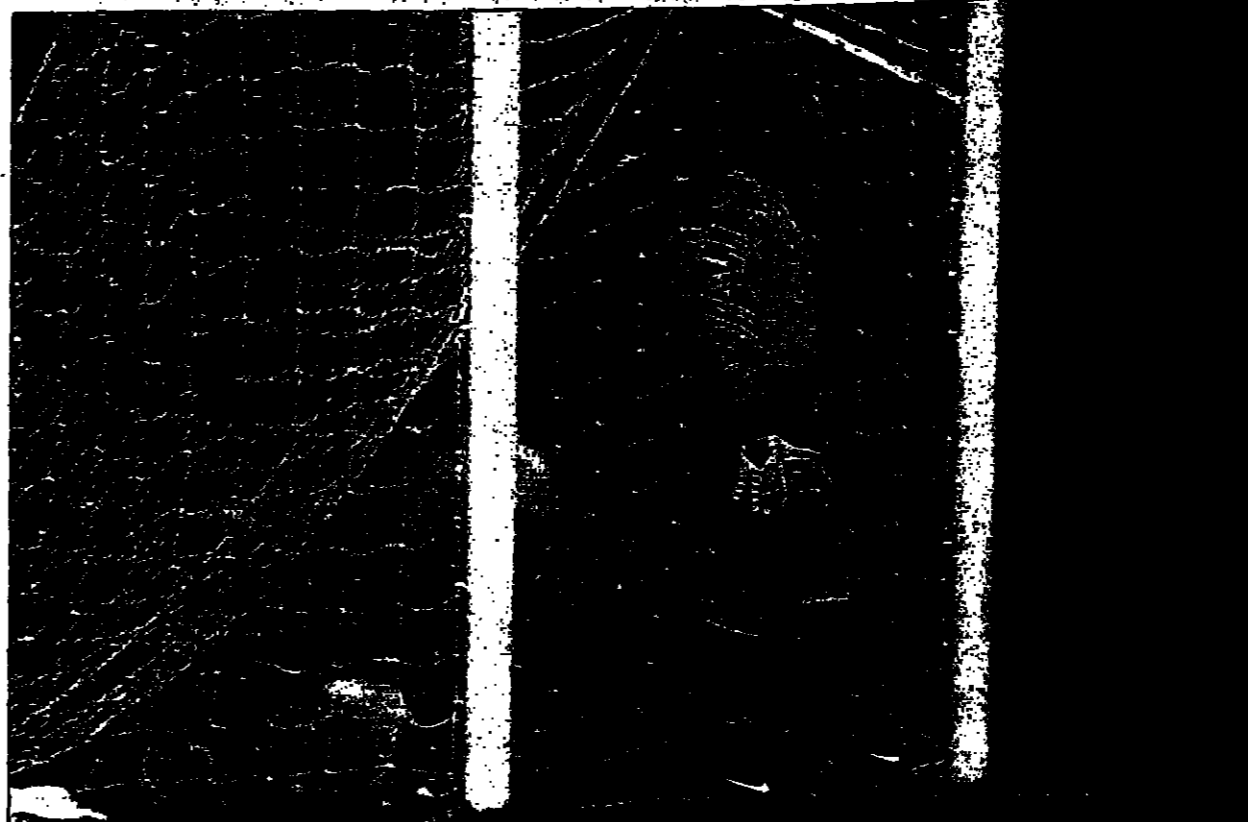
While Liverpool, Chelsea and Southampton are already concentrating on the league, Manchester United, Blackburn and Leeds are among those contemplating their four-round draws. Arsenal and Wimbledon must overcome tricky-looking replays away from home before making further progress.

If your team includes players from teams already eliminated you can use the transfer system to bring in replacements for next week's replays involving FA Cup Premier League teams.

To keep ITF entrants abreast of events in the two parallel competitions, the player lists have been redesigned to show points scored in both cup and league. The new lists and an explanation of what is in each column appear opposite.

To enable you to plan the composition of your selection for the next round of cup games, the draw as it affects premier league teams also appears.

Some entrants have hit the



Seaman: Arsenal's goalkeeper has a further opportunity to score FA Cup points in the replay against Port Vale

ground running in the FA Cup league. Mr Ian Perry of Shropshire decided to reshuffle an existing team for FA Cup purposes, and was rewarded with 79 points from the weekend's games - the top score by some way. "I decided I'd have

HOW IS YOUR TEAM DOING?
Call the ITF Checkline on **0891 111 333**

50p a minute, using a Touch-tone telephone. Public calls cost twice as much.

a real go when the cup came round," he said. "I picked players from six clubs that I thought would do fairly well, then swapped the sides over for the Sunday games."

The winners of the monthly prizes for December will be announced on these pages next week. Winners of the students and women's mini-leagues receive sports equipment and tickets to a premier league game of their choice; the Internet winner and overall top points-scorer also receive £1,000.

ITF helpline: 01582 702720.

FAXBACK: YOUR UP-TO-DATE TEAM SCORES

The brand new Times Faxback service provides you with a complete results sheet of your team, showing current and total scores, dates, times and details of transfers, as well as your position in the ITF League and, if appropriate, your mini-league (women's, students, youth). Scores and transfer confirmations are updated by 22 noon on the day following a match or matches.

Make sure you have your two-digit PIN number ready when you call. To obtain an ITF Team Faxback, simply pick up the handset of the fax machine and dial the telephone number below. If your fax does not have a handset, attach a handset or telephone button instead and dial the number below. Listen carefully to the instructions and press the appropriate buttons when asked. Calls cost £1. per minute and are available in the UK only.

The number to call for your Faxback is:

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If you have any problems operating this service, call the Faxback Helpline on 0121-412 3795. This service is provided by Telecom Express, Westminster Tower, London SE1 2SP.

LEAGUE UPDATES

ITF LEAGUE
£2,000 top prize
£1,000 monthly prize

PFA PLAYERS' LEAGUE
Professional footballers choose their fantasy team

STUDENTS' LEAGUE
Monthly prize of £1,000, signed football and sports bag

YOUTH LEAGUE
Monthly prize of £1,000, signed football and sports bag

WOMEN'S LEAGUE
Monthly prize of £1,000, signed football and sports bag

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

| | | | |
|----|------------------|-------------------|-----|
| 1 | S Brooks | Sandra's Specials | 632 |
| 2 | J Gardner | 15 Chumbawumbas | 611 |
| 3 | S Whitfield | Small Busters | 601 |
| 4 | A Hemmrow | The Breconians I | 601 |
| 5 | C Purdy | Kates Cousins | 594 |
| 6 | M Hussain | Good Luck Malika | 579 |
| 7 | B Fletcher | Ab Fab | 579 |
| 8 | S Reader | Sophie Reader Fa | 579 |
| 9 | P Johnston | XII Superstars | 573 |
| 10 | L Emery | Buggies Boys | 567 |
| 11 | C Ruiz-Cuimaraes | Calderia Aries | 565 |
| 12 | A Finch | Amnetty Angels | 565 |
| 13 | A Adachi | Fantasy Wolves II | 564 |
| 14 | H Irvine | He's Back | 563 |
| 15 | C Purdy | Kates Upstairs | 560 |
| 16 | T Saul | No Slip Ups | 558 |
| 17 | L Fraser | Linda's Lagers | 557 |
| 18 | A Beann | Harry's Heroes | 556 |
| 19 | J Peppar | Pepper Pots | 554 |
| 20 | P Sloan | Paolo Uni | 554 |

STUDENTS' LEAGUE

| | | | |
|----|---------------|-----------------------|-----|
| 1 | N Wheatley | H D G Is A Sad Waster | 680 |
| 2 | G Wilson | Dog Soldiers | 665 |
| 3 | T Gardner | 6 Chumbawumbas | 637 |
| 4 | N Wheatley | Whiteridge Is Ill | 617 |
| 5 | J Gardner | 15 Chumbawumbas | 611 |
| 6 | J Widdow | Balder Shabadoo | 605 |
| 7 | N Wheatley | A Tight Horse Is Fun | 570 |
| 8 | E Carmichael | Jedi Masters | 566 |
| 9 | Sven Shipley | Set Against | 562 |
| 10 | C Marzianczak | Jensen's XI | 560 |
| 11 | N Razzak | Aristotes | 557 |
| 12 | J Frost | Variety Sports Inter | 555 |
| 13 | F Ferguson | Saury Sue Barber | 555 |
| 14 | T Sharple | Mr Men | 554 |
| 15 | M Tinsington | Spofnwithtosh | 548 |
| 16 | D Garrett | Warmane Heroes XI | 545 |
| 17 | I McGill | The White Helmets | 544 |
| 18 | P Dume | Class Act | 543 |
| 19 | W Razzak | Fantastika | 541 |
| 20 | M Griffiths | The Town | 538 |

YOUTH LEAGUE

| | | | |
|----|---------------|----------------------|-----|
| 1 | D Lewis | Lewis Boys II | 649 |
| 2 | R Wicke | Robbed | 632 |
| 3 | M Sorapala | Horley Flames | 614 |
| 4 | J Gardner | 15 Chumbawumbas | 611 |
| 5 | M McPhillips | Ballygallyowers | 605 |
| 6 | J Laurence | Smooth Union | 605 |
| 7 | C Oyston | The Othsping FC | 580 |
| 8 | N Robertson | Total Commitment | 567 |
| 9 | C Marzianczak | Jensen's XI | 560 |
| 10 | O Ledger | Olivers Army | 555 |
| 11 | M Roberts | Kyrtonia Three | 547 |
| 12 | K Tindall | Flask XI | 546 |
| 13 | E Swales | Esthers Entertainers | 538 |
| 14 | T Smith | Up The League FC | 533 |
| 15 | A Simpson | Aje | 532 |
| 16 | G Calderbank | Calders XI | 528 |
| 17 | G Richards | G Force 2 | 527 |
| 18 | B McMullan | No Opposition | 525 |
| 19 | J Tompkins | Joesbunchobars | 523 |
| 20 | J Parcell | Jay's Dreamteam | 522 |

ITF LEAGUE

| | | | |
|-----|------------------------|-----------------------|-----|
| 1 | Mr M Jones | 79 | |
| 2 | Mike Madden | 743 | |
| 3 | Mr M Jones | 726 | |
| 4 | D Reuter | 726 | |
| 5 | Malkolm Jackson | 720 | |
| 6 | D Shuter | 718 | |
| 7 | G Rabinow | 713 | |
| 8 | Mary Ann Kennedy | 709 | |
| 9 | S Legg | 709 | |
| 10 | P Frazier | 709 | |
| 11 | C Burr | 708 | |
| 12 | P Turner | 696 | |
| 13 | A Lachhurst | 693 | |
| 14 | Mr M Jones | 689 | |
| 15 | P Turner | 685 | |
| 16 | D Shuter | 684 | |
| 17 | AJ Hastings | 683 | |
| 18 | P Turner | 682 | |
| 19 | K Ferball | 682 | |
| 20 | A Lachhurst | 680 | |
| 21 | N Whistley | H D G Is A Sad Waster | 679 |
| 22 | Mr D Edbrooke Steiner | 679 | |
| 23 | Mr A Colcombe | 678 | |
| 24 | D Shuter | 677 | |
| 25 | P Turner | 675 | |
| 26 | D Shuter | 673 | |
| 27 | A Nevizski | 672 | |
| 28 | G Dehan | 671 | |
| 29 | Graeme Dabour | 671 | |
| 30 | C Sloan | 669 | |
| 31 | J Strickland | 669 | |
| 32 | Chris Forde | 669 | |
| 33 | Mary Ann Kennedy | 668 | |
| 34 | A Lachhurst | 665 | |
| 35 | A Wilson | 665 | |
| 36 | J Hunt | 665 | |
| 37 | A Lachhurst | 664 | |
| 38 | Volcan Merchants | 663 | |
| 39 | P Rawlings | 663 | |
| 40 | B Bare | 663 | |
| 41 | P Bees | 663 | |
| 42 | Mr P Turner | 662 | |
| 43 | D Ross | 662 | |
| 44 | P Turner | 662 | |
| 45 | J Hunt | 661 | |
| 46 | G Millington | 660 | |
| 47 | Jeremy Dwyer | 660 | |
| 48 | D Wainor | 660 | |
| 49 | Stewart Makin | 660 | |
| 50 | Graeme Dabour | 658 | |
| 51 | J Hunt | 657 | |
| 52 | P Turner | 657 | |
| 53 | Andy Robson | 656 | |
| 54 | P Turner | 656 | |
| 55 | A Lachhurst | 656 | |
| 56 | Michael Horan | 655 | |
| 57 | DM Carter | 653 | |
| 58 | Barrie Paps a la Bacon | 653 | |
| 59 | J Hunt | 653 | |
| 60 | A Lynn | 652 | |
| 61 | Mr K Leahy | 652 | |
| 62 | S Legg | 652 | |
| 63 | H Pritchard | 651 | |
| 64 | Tim Oldfield | 651 | |
| 65 | Mary Ann Kennedy | 651 | |
| 66 | R Lockyer | 651 | |
| 67 | Philip Ward | 650 | |
| 68 | J Sanderson | 649 | |
| 69 | D Shuter | 648 | |
| 70 | G KOOber | 647 | |
| 71 | S Legg | 647 | |
| 72 | K Ferball | 646 | |
| 73 | Mr A Mellon | 645 | |
| 74 | A Lachhurst | 644 | |
| 75 | Mr M Jones | 643 | |
| 76 | R Jones | 642 | |
| 77 | F Bonal | 641 | |
| 78 | J Ralph | 641 | |
| 79 | J Sanderson | 641 | |
| 80 | KL Arnesen | 641 | |
| 81 | A Middelton | 641 | |
| 82 | Jon Pagan | 641 | |
| 83 | RJ Ward | 639 | |
| 84 | P Bees | 639 | |
| 85 | Graeme Dabour | 639 | |
| 86 | Mr Dg Philip | 639 | |
| 87 | Andrew | 638 | |
| 88 | B Frazier | 638 | |
| 89 | J Hunt | 638 | |
| 90 | Stevens Adams | 637 | |
| 91 | T Gardner | 637 | |
| 92 | George Mignoskovich | 637 | |
| 93 | W Clark | 636 | |
| 94 | P Turner | 636 | |
| 95 | T Garraugh | 635 | |
| 96 | Michael Huddleston | 635 | |
| 97 | J Hunt | 635 | |
| 98 | Clayton | 633 | |
| 99 | RF Larkin | 633 | |
| 100 | J Dalglish | 632 | |

PFA PLAYERS' LEAGUE

| | | |
|----|--------------------|-----|
| 1 | Paul Simpson | 454 |
| 2 | Simon Grayson | 448 |
| 3 | West Ham United | 444 |
| 4 | Alan Hogg | 433 |
| 5 | Jonathan Hunt | 429 |
| 6 | John Salako | 419 |
| 7 | Dean Blackwell | 413 |
| 8 | Robert Lee | 403 |
| 9 | David Tuttle | 395 |
| 10 | Robbie Keane | 395 |
| 11 | Kevin Gallacher | 387 |
| 12 | Tim Brasher | 387 |
| 13 | Richard Shaw | 384 |
| 14 | David Batty | 379 |
| 15 | Nigel Martyn | 374 |
| 16 | David Johnson | 374 |
| 17 | Gareth Southgate | 371 |
| 18 | Phil Babb | 368 |
| 19 | Colin Keane | 368 |
| 20 | David Seaman | 363 |
| 21 | Kenny Cunningham | 361 |
| 22 | Dave Whelan | 359 |
| 23 | Frank Lech | 359 |
| 24 | Chris Powell | 357 |
| 25 | Toby Scharpington | 357 |
| 26 | Dean Holdsworth | 354 |
| 27 | Andy Townsend | 353 |
| 28 | Lee Dixon | 353 |
| 29 | Paul Williams | 352 |
| 30 | David Webb | 352 |
| 31 | David Beckham | 352 |
| 32 | Andy Liddell | 352 |
| 33 | Patrick Beyer | 352 |
| 34 | Andy Blacklock | 352 |
| 35 | Andy Roberts | 352 |
| 36 | John Hendrie | 352 |
| 37 | Kevin Watson | 352 |
| 38 | Ary Elbers | 352 |
| 39 | Dez White | 352 |
| 40 | George Le Saux | 352 |
| 41 | Ian Stewart | 352 |
| 42 | Ugo Ehiogu | 352 |
| 43 | Alan Bardsley | 352 |
| 44 | Lee Sharpe | 352 |
| 45 | Steve Clarke | 352 |
| 46 | Colin Hendley | 352 |
| 47 | Darren Fletcher | 352 |
| 48 | Richard Johnson | 352 |
| 49 | Richard Johnson | 352 |
| 50 | Richard Johnson | 352 |
| 51 | Cary Mabbutt | 352 |
| 52 | Stewart McColl | 352 |
| 53 | David Beckham | 352 |
| 54 | Robin Van Der Laan | 352 |
| 55 | Jason Burt | 352 |
| 56 | Robbie Keane | 352 |
| 57 | Paul Gascoigne | 352 |
| 58 | Neil Bellinger | 352 |
| 59 | Simon Preece | 352 |
| 60 | Gary Neville | 352 |
| 61 | Steve Lomas | 352 |
| 62 | Alan Shearer | 352 |
| 63 | John Scales | 352 |
| 64 | Alan Wright | 352 |
| 65 | Danny Williamson | 352 |
| 66 | Nicky Eadian | 352 |
| 67 | John Harrison | 352 |
| 68 | Mark Wright | 352 |
| 69 | Colin Calderwood | 352 |
| 70 | Lee Carney | 352 |
| 71 | Alan Shearer | 352 |
| 72 | Iain Dowie | 352 |
| 73 | Mark Edwards | 352 |
| 74 | Giuseppe Zola | 352 |
| 75 | Mike Whitlow | 352 |

INTERNET LEAGUE

| | | |
|----|------------------------|-----|
| 1 | Mike Madden | 743 |
| 2 | Mary Ann Kennedy | 713 |
| 3 | Graeme Dabour | 671 |
| 4 | Chris Forde | 669 |
| 5 | Mary Ann Kennedy | 669 |
| 6 | P Bees | 668 |
| 7 | Jeremy Dwyer | 660 |
| 8 | Susan Makin | 659 |
| 9 | Graeme Dabour | 658 |
| 10 | Andy Robson | 658 |
| 11 | Michael Horan | 656 |
| 12 | Barrie Paps a la Bacon | 655 |
| 13 | Tim Oldfield | 651 |
| 14 | Mary Ann Kennedy | 651 |
| 15 | Philip Ward | 651 |
| 16 | Graeme Dabour | 651 |
| 17 | Andrew | 651 |
| 18 | George Mignoskovich | 651 |
| 19 | Michael Huddleston | 651 |
| 20 | Mike Madden | 651 |

| POINTS AWARDED | | | |
|----------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| Goalkeeper | 1 point | Goalkeeper | 1 point |
| Defender | 2 points | Defender | 2 points |
| Midfielder | 3 points | Midfielder | 3 points |
| Striker | 4 points | Striker | 4 points |
| Goal | 5 points | Goal | 5 points |
| Own Goal | 1 point | Own Goal | 1 point |
| Penalty | 1 point | Penalty | 1 point |
| Red Card | -3 points | Red Card | -3 points |
| Yellow Card | -1 point | Yellow Card | -1 point |
| Substituted | -1 point | Substituted | -1 point |
| Start off | -3 points | Start off | -3 points |
| Team Loss | -3 points | Team Loss | -3 points |

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO ENTER ITF
£1,000, a signed Mitre football and a Mitre Sports bag, and tickets to a premier league match of your choice can be won every month, plus the chance to win £10,000 in a separate FA Cup League to enter the ITF now.

The manager of the month can be won by any player in the transfer where it is in the overall ITF league. The prize simply goes to the person whose team scores the highest points in any one month. If you are a student or a woman (18 or over) you may also enter the appropriate mini-league, while under-18 year olds enter the Youth League. These all carry separate monthly prizes.

By entering the ITF, your team will automatically be entered into a separate FA Cup League. Your players will earn you points for the FA Cup League (Littlewoods FA Cup and Tennants Scottish FA Cup) as well as the main ITF league.

Remember the earlier you register, the more transfers your team will be allocated.

HOW TO ENTER

Enter to ITF via The Times are now by phone only, on **0891 405 011**
*(In the Republic of Ireland only +44 990 100 306)

- Use a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone)
- Choose 1 goalkeeper, 2 full backs, 2 central defenders, 4 midfielders, 2 strikers and a manager.
- Do not spend more than 35 million.
- Do not choose more than two individuals (2 players or 1 player and 1 manager) from any one club.
- Once you have chosen your team, call the entry line, above, and follow the step-by-step instructions.
- You will be given a ten-digit personal identification number (PIN) at the end of the call. You must keep a note of this number as you will need your PIN for making transfers and checking your team score.
- A new team will score points on future games. GBSI calls cost 30p per minute. Your call will cost about double if made from a pay phone. In the event of a tie being more than one league winner, a tiebreak will operate.

Who has the...

...most...
...and internet...

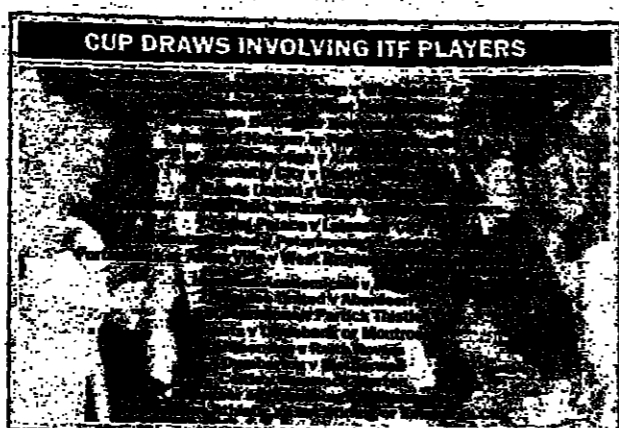
...the most...

...the most...

مكتبة النهر

Full ITF lists of FA Cup and League scores

The weekly lists now contain details of players' points scored in the league and the new FA Cup competition



Chris Powell of Derby: joint top-scorer with nine points in the FA Cup league

Regular readers will notice that changes have been made to the player lists (below) this week in order to take into account the beginning of the ITF FA Cup League.

Two new columns have been added, indicating the player's score in that week's FA Cup or Scottish Cup matches, and his running FA Cup league total. Naturally, after only one round of cup games, the two columns contain identical figures this week; next week's replays and rearranged games in addition to the full programme of premier league games will mean that the separate running total column will come into its own a fortnight today.

games (which will take place on January 20 or 21) will appear in the following week. The other columns indicate the weekly score in league games and the season's total, which includes points scored in FA and Scottish Cup matches.

The draws have now been made for the FA Cup fourth round and the third round of the Tennents Scottish FA Cup (see details above). Ties in both competitions are to be played on the weekend of January 24, 25 and 26. Players of Scottish premier league teams will therefore be able to score points in the FA Cup league from then on.

After last week's look at the players with the worst records in the ITF lists, it is a pleasure to change to record that the joint top points-scorer in the FA Cup league was a Barnsley

player, Darren Barnard, the full-back who began his career at Chelsea and joined Barnsley from Bristol City last summer, scored the only goal of his team's victory over Bolton Wanderers to earn nine points, a total equalled by Chris Powell of Derby County, another full-back on the scoresheet in his team's 2-0 win over Southampton.

Dave Watson, the Barnsley goalkeeper, scored eight, as did fellow wearers of big gloves and multi-coloured jerseys Mart Poom of Derby County and Kevin Miller of Crystal Palace. David Beckham and Andy Cole also managed eight apiece after their two-goal performances at Stamford Bridge, but Chelsea's late three-goal come-back meant a rare minus score for Peter Schmeichel.

THIS WEEK'S MOVE

There have been no ITF transfers in the last week

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER

YOU MAY transfer as and when you wish according to your team transfer allowance. If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You may adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

EACH TEAM that was entered at the start of the season was allocated 60 transfers for the season and each team registering after that date had its number of transfers reduced by three per week up to December 13. Teams registered before noon that day were allocated an extra 20 transfers. Teams registered since then and from now on will be allocated 20 transfers for the rest of the season.

THE LINE is open now and will remain open for the rest of the season. You may only make transfers by using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need ten digits for your PIN which you will have to tap in (not speak). Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players that you are transferring.

YOU MAY make up to four transfers per call but may make as many calls as you wish to achieve the required amount of transfers.

TRANSFERS made before 12 noon on any day will become effective for matches starting after that time. Transfers made after 12 noon will become effective for matches starting after 12 noon the following day.

YOUR NEW player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

CALLS COST 50p per minute and calls from a telephone box cost approximately twice as much.

Transfer number: 0891 884 628.
Outside the UK: +44 990 200 538.

| Code | Name | Team | S | FA Cup | FA Cup | FA Cup | FA Cup | FA Cup | FA Cup | FA Cup | FA Cup | FA Cup | FA Cup | FA Cup | FA Cup | FA Cup | FA Cup | FA Cup | FA Cup | FA Cup | |
|-------|---------------|--------------|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--|
| 10101 | J Leighton | Aberdeen | 2.00 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10201 | D Seaman | Arsenal | 5.00 | 7 | 7 | 0 | 64 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10301 | M Bosnich | Aston Villa | 3.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 41 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10401 | D Watson | Barnsley | 1.00 | 8 | 8 | 0 | -16 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10501 | T Flowers | Blackburn | 3.50 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 47 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10601 | K Brannagan | Bolton | 1.50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 38 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10701 | S Kerr | Celtic | 4.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10702 | J Gould | Celtic | 3.50 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 48 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10801 | E De Gooij | Chelsea | 3.00 | -7 | -7 | 0 | 58 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10901 | S Ogrizovic | Coventry C | 1.50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11001 | C Nash | C Palace | 0.25 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11002 | K Miller | C Palace | 2.00 | 8 | 8 | 0 | 38 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11101 | M Poom | Derby | 1.50 | 8 | 8 | 0 | 58 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11201 | S Dykstra | Dundee Utd | 2.00 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 14 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11301 | I Westwater | Dunfermline | 1.00 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11401 | N Southall | Everton | 2.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11501 | G Rousseau | Harts | 3.50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 47 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11601 | C Reid | Hibernian | 1.50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11602 | O Gottschalk | Hibernian | 1.50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11701 | D Lekovic | Kilmarnock | 1.00 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 17 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11801 | N Marlyn | Leeds Utd | 3.50 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 66 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11901 | K Keller | Leicester C | 3.00 | 8 | 8 | 0 | 58 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12001 | D James | Liverpool | 3.50 | -5 | -5 | 0 | 57 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12101 | P Schmeichel | Man Utd | 5.00 | -1 | -1 | 0 | 89 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12201 | S Howle | Motherwell | 1.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12301 | S Glenn | Newcastle | 3.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 17 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12401 | A Goram | Rangers | 5.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 29 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12501 | K Pressman | Sheffield W | 2.00 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12601 | A Main | St Johnstone | 0.50 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 36 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12702 | P Jones | Southampton | 1.00 | 8 | 8 | 0 | 13 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12801 | I Walker | Tottenham | 2.50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 18 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12901 | L Mido | West Ham | 2.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 13001 | N Sullivan | Wimbledon | 2.50 | 7 | 7 | 0 | 57 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20201 | L Dixon | Arsenal | 3.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20202 | N Winterburn | Arsenal | 3.00 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 31 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20203 | E Best | Arsenal | 3.00 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 16 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20301 | S Staunton | Aston Villa | 2.50 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 17 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20302 | A Wright | Aston Villa | 2.50 | -1 | -1 | 0 | 16 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20303 | S Grayson | Aston Villa | 2.00 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 20 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20304 | F Nelson | Aston Villa | 2.00 | -1 | -1 | 0 | 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20401 | N Eaden | Barnsley | 0.50 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20402 | N Thompson | Barnsley | 0.50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20403 | D Barnard | Barnsley | 1.00 | 9 | 9 | 0 | 7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20502 | J Kenny | Blackburn | 3.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 36 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20503 | P Valey | Blackburn | 2.50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20601 | N Cox | Bolton | 2.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20602 | R Elliott | Bolton | 1.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20603 | J Phillips | Bolton | 2.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21001 | M Whitlow | Bolton | 1.50 | -2 | -2 | 0 | 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21002 | T Boyd | Celtic | 3.50 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 49 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21003 | J McKinley | Celtic | 3.50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21004 | J McNamara | Celtic | 3.00 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 50 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20801 | D Petrescu | Chelsea | 4.00 | -4 | -4 | 0 | 45 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20802 | C Babayaro | Chelsea | 2.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 20 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20903 | F Sinclair | Chelsea | 4.00 | -2 | -2 | 0 | 25 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20904 | G Le Seux | Chelsea | 1.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20905 | S Barnes | Coventry C | 1.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21001 | R Hill | Coventry C | 1.00 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 9 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21002 | R Nilsson | Coventry C | 1.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21101 | D Gordon | C Palace | 1.50 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 21 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21102 | M Edworthy | C Palace | 1.50 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21103 | J Smith | C Palace | 1.50 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 34 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21104 | C Powell | Derby | 1.50 | 9 | 9 | 0 | 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21105 | D Yates | Derby | 1.50 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 13 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21106 | G Rowett | Derby | 1.50 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21401 | A Hinshelwood | Everton | 2.50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21402 | E Barrett | Everton | 1.50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21403 | T Phelan | Everton | 1.50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21404 | M Ward | Everton | 1.50 | 0 | 0 | -1 | 7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21501 | G Locke | Harts | 1.50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21701 | D Kerr | Kilmarnock | 1.00 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 25 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21801 | G Kelly | Leeds Utd | 2.50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 29 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21802 | D Robertson | Leeds Utd | 2.50 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 41 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 21902 | S Guppy | Leicester C | 3.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 21 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 22001 | S Bjornmatz | Liverpool | 3.00 | -2 | -2 | 0 | 13 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 22002 | J McInnes | Liverpool | 3.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 22003 | R Jones | Liverpool | 4.00 | -2 | -2 | 0 | 18 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 22101 | D Irwin | Man Utd | 3.50 | -1 | -1 | 0 | 48 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 22102 | G Naylor | Man Utd | 3.50 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 38 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 22103 | P Neville | Man Utd | 3.00 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 25 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 22301 | S Watson | Newcastle | 2.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 22302 | W Barton | Newcastle | 2.00 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 18 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 22303 | J Beresford | Newcastle | 3.00 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 12 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 22304 | S Pearce | Newcastle | 3.00 | 0 | 0 | -1 | 24 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 22401 | A Cleland | Rangers | 3.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 26 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 22402 | S Strassman | Rangers | 3.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 26 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 22501 | P Blomqvist | Sheffield W | 2.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -15 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 22502 | J Nolan | Sheffield W | 2.00 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 22701 | J Dodd | Southampton | 1.50 | -1 | -1 | 5 | 18 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 22702 | F Benfey | Southampton | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

NEWS

Campaign to polish judges' image

The Home Office is to launch an unprecedented public relations campaign to improve confidence in judges and magistrates...

Storms leave £500m repair bill

Millions of homeowners face increased insurance premiums after one of the worst storms of the decade left an estimated £500 million repair bill for structural damage...

Parent power

A Norfolk primary school fell victim to parent power when no pupils returned after the holiday...

Books for schools

The Millennium Commission has joined forces with the publishers Everyman in an £8-million project to give a library of 250 literary classics to 4,500 secondary schools...

Drink-driving blow

Senior police officers expressed disappointment at the large number of motorists who continue to flout the law despite a multi-million pound campaign against drink-driving...

Althorp overwhelmed

In the first four hours of telephone bookings for Althorp Park, 2,500 callers got through but an estimated 22,000 failed...

Provocative Patten

Chris Patten signalled that his unexpected challenge to William Hague's policy on Europe would not be his last despite the risk of its reigniting civil war in the Tory Party...

School 'apartheid'

Ministers are perpetuating 'educational apartheid' in schools by ignoring the needs of Afro-Caribbean boys, the chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality claimed...

End of the chase

A ten-year affair between two members of a hunt ended when the woman's husband was jailed for 30 months for assaulting the philandering rider...

Passport to paradise

Caribbean islands such as Dominica are selling passports and lifetime citizenship for as little as £31,000 to boost their faltering economies...

Jobs crusade

Gordon Brown promised a 'national crusade' to end unemployment as the Government launched its New Deal for jobless young people...

Gaddafi weapons aid

Colonel Muammar Gaddafi is being helped by Iraqi scientists in a covert programme to develop biological weapons...

Rescue plan wilts

A government plan to rescue rare and endangered plant and animal species by securing sponsorship from business is proving to be a flop...

Netanyahu survives

Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, survived against the odds by securing the passage of the budget despite a reduced parliamentary majority...

Back to Earth again for Fossett

Steve Fossett's fourth attempt to become the first person to circumnavigate the globe in a balloon ended abruptly when he was forced to land near the Black Sea...



Performers of the Cirque du Soleil on the balcony at the Albert Hall in London, where their new show Alegria opens tomorrow

Football: Stevenage Borough plan to double the 6,000 capacity of their ground and keep home advantage for their FA Cup fourth-round tie with Newcastle United...

Cricket: Wasim Akram has resigned as Pakistan's captain after receiving death threats from disgruntled supporters...

Mime time: The London International Mime Festival opens on Saturday with everything from the foolery of acrobats and clowns to performers with a far darker message...

World killer: As fears of a global influenza outbreak rise, Eve-Ann Prentice and Dr. Thomas Stuttford look at ways of tackling and treating the virus...

Wunder horse: The National Gallery has paid £1 million for a Stubbs picture of a horse with no rider and no background. What makes it special?

Sailing: Dennis Conner recovered to lead on Toshiba in the Sydney-Auckland leg of the Whitbread Round the World race...

Four's company: The Chillingirian Quartet celebrated their second quarter-century together with a typically adventurous Wigmore Hall programme...

Way to grow: An online virtual marketplace will enable independent British flower growers to compete with foreign importers in supplying supermarkets and other big businesses...

In the open: The Post Office has emerged as the buyer for the City headquarters of the Securities and Investments Board...

Rugby unions: Bristol have sold and leased back their prime asset, the Memorial Ground, as part of a package that should secure the club's short-term future...

First to the Bar: Heather Hallet, QC, first woman to chair the Bar, talks to Frances Gibb...

Society review: Martin Mears casts a jaundiced eye over the self-regulating society of which he was once president...

Colin Montgomerie's win in Arizona has given his career a considerable boost...

Orkney, Shetland: bright with early showers. Rain in evening. Wind light W, becoming fresh S. Max 7C (45F).

Republic of Ireland: outbreaks of rain then clear with showers. Wind fresh or strong, SE veering SW. Max 11C (52F).

Outlook: changeable and mild.

London, SE & Central S England: bright, frosty start, becoming wet. Wind light SW, becoming strong. Max 11C (52F).

E Anglia, E & NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE & NW Scotland: clear, frosty start. Wet afternoon, clearer in evening. Wind light W, becoming fresh S. Max 9C (48F).

E & W Midlands, S & N Wales, Northern Ireland: rain spreading.

Channel Isles, SW England: cloudy with outbreaks of rain. Wind fresh S, becoming strong SW. Max 11C (52F).

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Motoring: Europe Country by Country 0236 401 883

Car reports by fax: new and used car reports from the AA team of 175 cars 0236 410 200

General: frosty start in Scotland, Northern Ireland and eastern areas of England and Wales. Cloud and rain, preceded by snow on northern hills, will spread northeast.

Clearer weather with showers will reach western parts later, reaching all but the South East and Shetland by midnight. Conditions will become windy, with gales around some western coasts.

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THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,681

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-28.

Crossword clues and solutions. Across: 1 Poor Edward, interrupted by female and made to look small (7). Down: 1 Note on side indicating to UR lid (4).

Latest Road and Weather conditions

Table of road and weather conditions for various UK regions.

General: frosty start in Scotland, Northern Ireland and eastern areas of England and Wales.

Table of general weather conditions for various UK regions.

Channel Isles, SW England: cloudy with outbreaks of rain.

Table of weather conditions for Channel Isles and SW England.

London, SE & Central S England: bright, frosty start, becoming wet.

Table of weather conditions for London, SE & Central S England.

Preview: Brian Walden assesses Winston Churchill's role of hero in *Widened on Heroes* (BBC2, 7.30pm).

Review: Joe Joseph finds ITV and the BBC setting a bad example with *Neighbours From Hell II* and *Neighbours At War*... Pages 42, 43

Touch of turbulence

William Hague's honeymoon flight had barely touched down at Heathrow when the bad faeries appeared to blight his other honeymoon, with his party. But menacing though this puff of smoke may appear to Mr Hague, it may be Mr Blair who suffers most from the Tory grandees... Page 15

One for the bin

Ministers should not even consider changing the law for moderate drinkers unless they can prove that the real danger comes from those whose alcohol level is between 50mg and 80mg... Page 15

Cincinnati is back

For intellectuals and nationalists the Lithuanian presidential election victory of the silver-haired pensioner Valdas Adamkus is bizarre. But for many people he has one shining attraction: the magic of America... Page 15

ROY HATTERSLEY

The idea that patronage invariably provides the best man for the job is - as Cardinal Hume's supporters will agree - a myth spread by patrons... Page 14

LIBBY PURVES

We have admitted that children cannot be treated as neuter. It doesn't work. Hormones will out... Page 14

MICHAEL GOVE

Tonight Brian Walden seeks to strip away the myths surrounding Churchill, but his is an act of homage not humbling... Page 14

Sir James Dunnet, civil servant; Alan Flock, artistic director of Youth and Music; George Fleming, champion cyclist... Page 17

EMU: drink-drive limit; breath-test statistics; Blair's holiday hideaway; Labour's jobs programme; terror in Algeria; detention of Kaunda; school assemblies; millennium matters... Page 15

TOMORROW

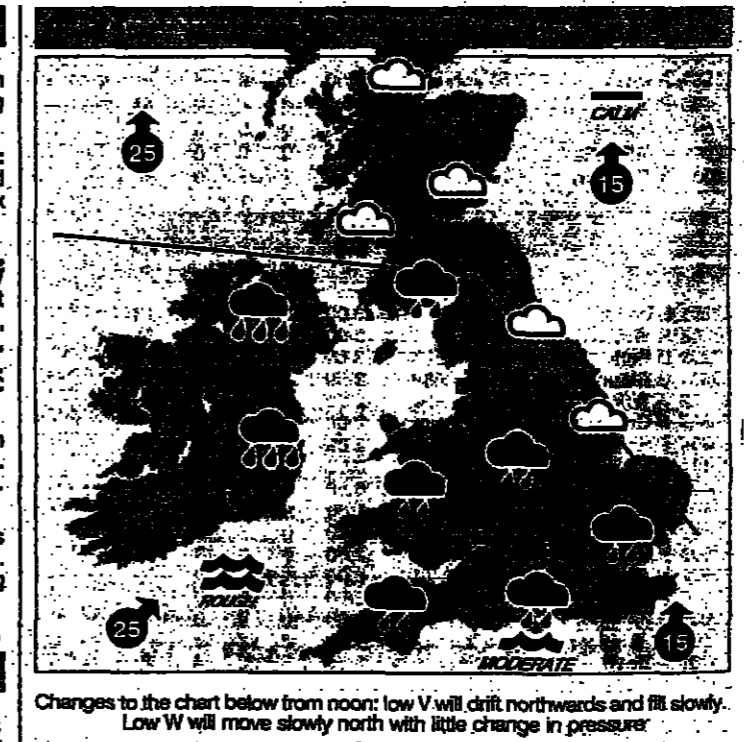
IN THE TIMES

INTERFACE

How virtual wind tunnels are used to test everything from cars to space probes

HOMES

Rachel Kelly solves the mystery behind one of London's most expensive houses



Changes to the chart below from noon: low V will drift northwards and fill slowly. Low W will move slowly north with little change in pressure

Table of weather forecasts for various UK regions.

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Large advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off, mentioning 'insurer pre', 'Soros', 'investr', and 'Vickers take'.

THE TIMES

2

INSIDE SECTION
2
TODAY



BUSINESS

Who's in control over gas competition?
PAGE 27



LAW

The first woman to chair the Bar speaks out
PAGES 33-35



SPORT

Motson must recognise his mistake
PAGES 37-44

TELEVISION AND RADIO
PAGES 42, 43

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY JANUARY 6 1998

Insurer predicts end of annual bonuses

BY MARIANNE CURRISBY
INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

A LEADING insurer has predicted radical changes to the way investment returns are paid on with-profits life and pension policies over the next decade and has forecast that annual bonuses will virtually disappear.

General Accident Life, the first insurer to announce its 1997 bonus rates, yesterday gave warning to the tens of millions of people holding with-profits policies across the industry that changes to the way companies were taxed and falling dividend yields from UK shares would alter the structure of payouts. A downward trend in inflation and long-term interest rates as monetary union approaches are also blamed.

Instead of adding annual bonuses over the lifetime of a policy, GA predicted there would be a greater emphasis on paying lump sums when the plan matured. This was because dividend yields on shares had been falling since the 1980s, and annual bonuses on pensions would be affected by the withdrawal of

advance corporation tax relief on dividend income, the company said. GA Life said maturity values for its 15 and 20-year with-profit policies were being cut despite a 20 per cent investment return on its underlying life fund. Norwich Union, which reports bonus rates today, is also expected to reduce annual bonus rates for its unisex life with-profit policies. Royal Life is expected to cut terminal bonuses while Friends Provident and Scottish Life could remain unaltered from last year. GA is holding the maturity values

of its ten-year policies at last year's levels and has lifted those of 25-year policies by 5.4 per cent. Savers with rival insurers may be even harder hit. General Accident kept 67 per cent of its portfolio in equities — a higher than average quota. It has 21 per cent of its portfolio in gilts and fixed interest stocks, and just 2 per cent in cash. Its 10 per cent holding in UK property was also a strong performer. Other insurers switched into cash and gilts earlier in the year amid fears that UK and US markets were about to crash.

For investors with a ten-year ESO-month policy from GA Life maturing on January 1, 1998, their plan will be worth £10,305, just £16 more than the previous year. For 20-year policies, the maturity value will fall by £2,335 to £52,579.

Mike Urmston, chief actuary, said GA Life policyholders who had bought endowments to meet mortgage costs would have no problem paying off their loan so long as they held their policies until the plan matured.

Cinven triumphs as IPC buyout is agreed

BY RAYMOND SNOODY
MEDIA EDITOR

A MANAGEMENT buyout backed by Cinven, the venture capital group, has won the race to buy IPC Magazines from Reed Elsevier, the Anglo-Dutch information and publishing group, in a deal worth £860 million.

The management team led by Mike Matthew, IPC chief executive, will receive equity stakes in the company. The MBO team beat off competition from Electra Planning, another venture capital group, as well as the publishers Emap and Heinrich Bauer.

Cinven, which manages about £1.5 billion of pension fund money, was set a deadline of yesterday to complete an unconditional agreement or see the auction proceed to an extra round. A team led by Brian Linden of Cinven worked throughout the Christmas period and exchanged contracts yesterday. The £860 million in cash will be drawn down on January 19.

The fact that Cinven was in effect given exclusive negotiating rights irritated a number of potential bidders, including Electra Fleming. Yesterday Electra made it clear that it accepted the outcome of the auction and planned no further action. The indicative Electra bid was in the £775 million to £810 million range. One bidder came within £20 million of the winning bid but the range was wide. One serious group bid £740 million. Emap, the publishing and exhibition group, was within £20 million of Cinven but planned to sell off about two thirds of IPC.

The sale was at the higher end of original expectations and the Reed International share price rose 10p to 618p on the news.

Cinven said it intended to treat IPC as a long-term asset and increase its value. There were no plans to sell any IPC titles, which include *Country Life*, *Women's Own*, *Melody Maker*, *Marie-Claire* (a joint venture) and *Loaded*.

Commentary, page 25

BUSINESS TODAY

| | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|------------|
| FTSE 100 | 5282.5 | (+69.0) |
| Yield | 3.07% | |
| FTSE All share | 2480.90 | (+26.94) |
| Nikkei | 14085.84 | (+31.50) |
| New York | | |
| Dow Jones | 8026.57 | (+61.53)* |
| S&P Composite | 971.52 | (+4.89)* |
| US RATE | | |
| Federal Funds | 5 1/8% | (8 1/4%) |
| Long Bond | 105 1/8% | (10 1/4) |
| Yield | 5.74% | (5.94%) |
| LONDON MONEY | | |
| 3-mth Interbank | 7 1/8% | (7 1/4%) |
| Libor 3m | 105 1/8% | (10 1/4) |
| Future (3m) | 122 1/8% | (12 1/4) |
| STERLING | | |
| New York | 1.6335* | (1.6450) |
| London | | |
| \$ | 1.6386 | (1.6405) |
| DM | 2.0797 | (2.0823) |
| FF | 5.8279 | (5.8324) |
| SF | 2.4205 | (2.4075) |
| Yan | 215.22 | (217.10) |
| S Index | 110.4 | (110.4) |
| DOLLAR | | |
| London | | |
| £M | 1.6227* | (1.6035) |
| FF | 6.0995* | (6.0352) |
| SF | 1.4805* | (1.4650) |
| Yan | 133.25* | (132.45) |
| S Index | 110.4 | (110.4) |
| Tokyo close Yen 132.80 | | |
| NORTH SEA OIL | | |
| Brent 15-day (Mar) | \$16.20 | (\$16.60) |
| GOLD | | |
| London close | \$323.18 | (\$328.25) |
| * denotes midday trading price | | |

Soros plans \$1bn Korean investment

BY OLIVER AUGUST AND ALASDAIR MURRAY

GEORGE SOROS, the billionaire US financier, yesterday provided the battered South Korean economy with a lifeline when he revealed that he is considering investing up to \$1 billion (£610 million) in the country.

The Korean stock market also received a boost from reports that the Ford Motor Company is interested in buying Kia Motors Corp, although Ford later played down the likelihood of any imminent move. Ford already holds an 18 per cent stake in the company.

However, the news of the potential US investments failed to stop nervous Korean investors from besieging the offices of the country's failed merchant banks in an attempt to withdraw deposits. Thousands of Koreans also joined queues to sell off gold jewellery in response to a nationwide campaign to help the country to raise desperately needed US dollars.

Mr Soros, who has been held responsible by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Malaysian Prime Minister, for initiating the Asian crisis, said that he was planning a "quite substantial" investment in Korea. He disclosed that, after weekend talks with Kim Dae Jung, the President-elect, he is prepar-

ing to send a team of analysts and fund managers to South Korea to research and to manage investments.

Mr Soros said: "My meeting with Kim Dae Jung and his team has encouraged me to send a team of advisers to study investment possibilities because I was impressed with their understanding of the magnitude of the problem."

Mr Dae Jung revealed yesterday that he would be seeking the immediate passage of laws to ease restrictions on layoffs, to help to lure back foreign investors.

Thai renegotiation 24
Commentary 25

Mr Soros added that he believed the won, the Korean currency, had depreciated sufficiently to make the Korean manufacturing sector, which is heavily export-orientated, competitive again.

Mr Soros's bargain-hunting trip is likely to draw other investors to Korea and could mark a turnaround in the country's economic fortunes. Analysts said that Mr Soros's intervention would help to re-establish a price floor for plummeting asset values.

Kim Sang Soo, an analyst at LG Securities, the Korean

broker, said: "People believe if Soros comes in, other investors will also come in, and such moves will help to boost investors' confidence."

Mr Soros's comments helped the Korean stock market to close up 2.85 per cent yesterday, although the won fell from 1,695 to the dollar to 1,780.

Yesterday, in spite of pleas to leave the money invested, anxious customers thronged the offices of the 14 Korean-merchant banks that had their trading activities suspended in December. It was the first time since the trading suspensions were implemented that depositors have been able to withdraw their funds, although the Korean Government has pledged to ensure the safety of private financial deposits.

A review of the financial health of the banks is expected to be completed next month, with analysts anticipating the majority will be liquidated.

Koreans also rushed to support a national campaign to sell gold jewellery for US dollars, organised by the Daewoo Corporation's housing bank. By the end of the day Daewoo had collected 3,314 kilograms of gold valued at about \$33 million (£20 million). Participants will be repaid in local currency after the gold has been exported.



George Soros, the billionaire US financier, has had talks with Korea's President-elect

BTR faces £850,000 payout over Buysse

BY PAUL DURMAN

BTR, the conglomerate that is focusing on engineering, may have to pay around £850,000 compensation for loss of office to Paul Buysse, the Belgian head of its power drives business, in spite of Mr Buysse taking early retirement.

Mr Buysse, who was on a two-year contract that paid him £423,000 in 1996, was partly employed by a Belgian subsidiary, Hansen Transmissions, causing the terms of his departure to fall under Belgium's more exacting employment law. He is therefore likely to receive his full contractual entitlement.

The power drives arm, centred on Brook Hansen, is regarded as one of BTR's growth businesses, but it turned in disappointing results for the first half of 1997. Profits fell from £13 million to £108 million on sales that

fell from £543 million to £517 million.

David Stevens, BTR company secretary, said that there was "no real connection" between Mr Buysse's departure and the recent performance of the power drives division. He suggested that Mr Buysse, 53, had decided that he wanted to take early retirement.

Mr Buysse was one of the dwindling band of BTR directors who joined the group in its glory days under Sir Owen Green. He joined Hansen Transmissions in 1987 and joined the BTR board in 1994.

Elwyn Ellidge, BTR's chairman, is soon to make way for Bob Bauman, the American chairman of British Aerospace.

BTR shares yesterday rose 6p to 189 1/2p — still near their five-year low.

Commentary, page 25

Post Office buys home of the SIB

THE Post Office has emerged as the mystery buyer of the City headquarters of the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), formerly the chief financial regulator (Richard Miles writes).

The SIB, now part of the Financial Services Authority, refused to comment on the sale of the Gavrelle House lease, and on reports that the deal had generated proceeds of £13 million for the watchdog.

Gavrelle House, on Bunhill Row towards the north of the City, is currently home to about 200 FSA staff, including its chairman Howard Davies.

As an interim measure, it is understood that the FSA intends to rent office space in Docklands from Morgan Stanley, the investment bank, until the watchdog's new headquarters, also in Canary Wharf, is ready.

Domestic slowdown hits factory orders

BY JANET BUSH AND CAROLINE MERRELL

BRITISH manufacturers experienced a sharp drop in orders in December but the fall appeared to come from customers at home rather than abroad, according to the Chartered Institute of Purchasing & Supply.

The purchasing managers' survey showed manufacturing activity expanding for the nineteenth consecutive month but the rate of growth slipped. This reflected a fall in the growth rate of new orders to its weakest since May 1996. Export orders rose slightly in December despite the continued strength of the pound but City economists concluded that the overall new orders figures showed that the domestic economy is starting to decelerate.

Together with another decline in the purchasing managers' price index, as the strong pound continues to

bear down on import prices, the latest survey was broadly seen as weakening the argument for a further rise in interest rates when the Bank of England's monetary policy committee meets tomorrow and on Thursday.

House prices fell for the first time in a year, according to the Halifax price index. The one-month fall of 0.2 per cent in December compares with a rise of 0.9 per cent in November. The Halifax says the fall does not point to a reversal of the recovery in house prices experienced during 1997. According to the Halifax, the fall in prices in December was partly offset by the higher than expected rise in prices in November. The fall brings annual house price inflation down to around 4.3 per cent, against 6.1 per cent in November.

Vickers takes on Rolls-Royce over veto

BY ADAM JONES

A LEGAL DISPUTE has erupted over the proposed sale of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars after the current owner, Vickers, claimed that the unrelated aero-engine maker, Rolls-Royce plc, has no right of veto over the sale.

A 1973 agreement says that, in the event of the carmaker being sold to a foreign party, Rolls-Royce plc has the power to stop it using the Rolls-Royce

name and the R-R badge. Almost all the potential buyers, which include BMW, Daimler-Benz, Volkswagen and Ford, are from outside the UK.

Airid claims that Rolls-Royce plc is trying to use the 1973 agreement to steer the luxury car company into the hands of BMW. Vickers claimed yesterday that the veto clause is anti-competitive and therefore invalid.

A statement said: "Vickers announces that it has received clear legal advice

that the change of control provisions in the 1973 agreements relating to foreign ownership of Rolls-Royce Motor Cars are unenforceable under European Union law and that Rolls-Royce plc therefore has no veto power over the selection by Vickers of a new owner for Rolls-Royce Motor Cars."

Rolls-Royce plc said that it was surprised by the Vickers statement. A spokesman said: "We don't agree with it. Our advice is that the legal provi-

sions regarding access to the name are very clear and very enforceable."

The 1973 agreement does not cover use of the Bentley name, nor the silver lady used on Rolls-Royce cars. Rolls-Royce plc said that another provision states that the name can be used only on cars with the traditional luxury image.

Vickers confirmed yesterday that Christopher Woodward has stepped down as its chief operating officer and is to leave the company later this year.

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UK carmakers overtaken by record imports

By KEVIN EASON
MOTORING EDITOR

BRITISH carmakers failed to cash in on booming sales of new cars last year as motorists turned in record numbers to imports. Figures to be published by the industry this week will show that 66 per cent of new cars leaving showrooms were made in foreign factories.

French and Germans, Renault, Citroen, Audi and Mercedes are all thought to have registered their best years in such demand, the company is considering limiting supplies to maintain exclusivity.

as exports of British cars are also setting records, with manufacturers on target for their best performance overseas for 45 years.

Royce of the major manufacturers make all of their cars in Britain. This means that the balance of payments for the industry will be substantially in deficit for some time, in spite of the strong export performance.

A deficit of about £6 billion could be cut to around £2.5 billion early in the next century, according to Dr Rhye. "There is no grounds for wild optimism but the export performance is one which is very encouraging and is export-led industrial regeneration of the kind the country needs," he said.

Lord Moyne faces legal battles on two fronts

By JON ASHWORTH

LORD MOYNE, the former Jonathan Guinness, is fighting legal battles on two fronts amid continuing controversy over his dealings with Trustror, the Swedish investment company.

hirings of Bentleys at £300 to £400 a time. Guinness Management says that the claims were run up by Mr Mattsson and Mr Jisander without authorisation. It says that it was wrongly invoiced by Wings of Desire on at least one occasion.

Two Swedish business associates, Thomas Jisander and Peter Mattsson, were arrested in Stockholm in early November. A third man, Joachim Poesner, is being sought by police. Lord Moyne denies wrongdoing and says he moved swiftly to protect Trustror shareholders once his suspicions were raised.

A court in Sweden has ruled that Trustror be placed in liquidation, but an appeal has been lodged.



Controversy continues to surround Lord Moyne as his company contests two lawsuits

Peptide and Pfizer share dog vaccine research

By PAUL DURMAN

DOGS that suffer a distressing allergy to flea bites are to be offered some hope of relief thanks to a deal between Peptide Therapeutics and Pfizer, the US pharmaceutical group that is a leader in animal health care.

Peptide, which emerged from the Rheumatology and Allergy Research Unit at the University of Birmingham, has granted Pfizer an option to the worldwide rights to its potential animal allergy vaccines. Pfizer will work first to prevent the dermatitis suffered by allergic dogs.

Flea-bite allergy is responsible for an estimated 30 per cent of the skin disease suffered by domestic animals. Estimates of the potential market value of a vaccine could run into the hundreds of millions of pounds.

Pfizer will meet the cost of the research and development needed to evaluate the vaccine. Peptide is understood to have received only a peppercorn fee for granting the option. It will only benefit significantly when Pfizer decides to exercise the option.

SmithKline Beecham, which paid an initial £6 million to Peptide for the allergy vaccine rights, will continue testing it this year. Dr Brown said Peptide should have results on trials of its oral typhoid vaccine this year.

Fifth worst year for airline hull losses

LAST YEAR was the fifth worst on record for insured airline hull and liability losses at just over \$1.4 billion, Aircclaims, the London-based consultancy, said in its latest bulletin. Overall, the figures are largely in line with previous annual averages and have led Aircclaims to pull back from fears expressed in its report at the end of 1996 of a trend towards more total aircraft losses.

Losses were below 1996's figure of close to \$1.6 billion, but worse than most previous years. Only 1985, 1989 and 1994 saw bigger insured losses. Passenger deaths were 549 lower than in 1996, at 1,056. Last year, 22 Western-built jet airliners, which tend to result in the biggest insurance claims, became total losses, compared with 24 in 1996. This is in line with the average annual number of total losses in the past 25 years.

Dyson back in Japan

DYSON, the vacuum cleaner maker, has bought back the rights to sell machines made with its dual cyclone technology in Japan from Silver Reed, the group that bought the rights for just £750,000 in 1993. James Dyson, the cleaner group's founder, sold the Japanese rights to find the setting up of the group's manufacturing arms, which now makes over £100 million of vacuum cleaners a year. Silver Reed will retain the rights to the old cleaners, but Dyson will be able to launch new products in Japan. Mr Dyson is accompanying the Prime Minister on his trade mission to Japan later this week, along with Sir Colin Marshall and Sir Iain Vallance.

BAT venture approved

BAT INDUSTRIES said its joint venture with Tekel, the Turkish state-owned tobacco company, has been approved by the Turkish Government. The joint venture will be launched with an issued share capital of \$280 million (£171 million), and will pay \$100 million of this to Tekel in return for a 49-year exclusive licence of its Samsun and Yeni Harman cigarette brands. BAT said it will contribute \$145.6 million cash in return for an initial 52 per cent shareholding, while Tekel will contribute \$134.4 million in the form of its partly-completed factory at Akhisar and working capital in return for a 49 per cent stake in the venture.

Meditrust to buy hotels

MEDITRUST will buy La Quinta Inns for about \$3 billion (£1.8 billion) in cash, stock and assumed debt, as the US real estate investment trust expands into the hotel business. Meditrust will pay a 28 per cent premium over Friday's closing price. La Quinta, based in San Antonio, Texas, owns and operates 270 hotels with a total of 35,000 rooms, primarily in the south and west of the US. The La Quinta purchase comes after one of the busiest years for hotel takeovers and continues the trend of real estate trusts moving into the hotel sector. Late last year Starwood Lodgings bought FIT, owner of the Sheraton chain, for \$17 billion.

Tool & Supply disposal

INTERNATIONAL TOOL & SUPPLY has agreed to dispose of its international supply division to management for \$2.5 million (£1.5 million) in cash. The proceeds will be reinvested in the engineering systems and drilling services divisions, both higher-margin businesses than the international supply division. The purchaser is ITS Supply Corp, a company formed for this purpose and controlled by Kendal Gladys and Charles R Hipp, who have resigned as directors of International Tool & Supply. The international supply division reported a pre-tax loss of \$33,000 for the year to March 31, 1997. Net assets were \$2.4 million.

McLeod Russel buy

MCLEOD RUSSEL, the air filtration and surface coatings group, said it is to buy Eurogard, the specialist coating group, for £4.7 million plus £1 million of net debts. Eurogard, of Geldrop, The Netherlands, will join McLeod Russel's speciality surface coatings division. The adjusted net assets of Eurogard on completion are estimated at £1.5 million. The acquisition will be earnings enhancing, McLeod Russel said. Eurogard, which had sales of £5.5 million and profits of £900,000 in 1996, is being acquired from GE Plastics, which will continue to be a significant customer after the deal is completed.

Unilever's French deal

UNILEVER, the food and detergents group, is to sell its French seed-oil business with the trademark Frial to Eridania Beghin-Say. In a separate deal, Unilever will buy Vegetaline, the EBS frying fat division. The two businesses, which will change hands on March 1, have turnover of £50 million and £15 million, respectively. The deals are part of Unilever's lengthy restructuring programme, begun in late 1996 under Niall Fitzgerald, chairman. A spokesman for the company said that the disposal was not core to Unilever France, and that Vegetaline was a good fit with the group's yellow fats interests.

Pillarcaisse park sale

PILLARCAISSE, the joint venture between Pillar Property and SITQ Immobilien, the Canadian fund, said yesterday it had sold Meadows Retail Park to Standard Life, the life insurer, for £115 million. The group said the price represented an initial yield of 6.4 per cent. Pillarcaisse will keep the Meadows Shopping Centre in Chesham, Essex, which it bought with the retail park in April 1996 for £41.5 million. The disposal follows the sale of The Weston-Favell Shopping Centre in Northamptonshire last September for £34.25 million. The group's portfolio now includes eight shopping centres valued at approximately £205 million.

Netscape warning to herald closures, losses and job cuts

By OUR CITY STAFF

NETSCAPE Communications has warned the market of a fourth-quarter loss of up to \$89 million (£55 million) and said that it will close some operations and slash jobs to help it to focus on software development.

Microsoft, which is headed by Bill Gates, is now facing a \$1 million-a-day fine.



Bill Gates's Microsoft offers stiff competition for Netscape

Netscape, based in Mountain View, California, said the loss of \$85 million to \$89 million, or 88 cents to 92 cents a share, results partly from unexpectedly slow growth. It said growth was held down by competitive pressures, slower than expected development of new products and regional economic conditions in Asia.

The company said that the fourth-quarter loss will include \$35 million to account for the restructuring and \$52 million in charges related to its acquisition of Actra Corp and Kiva Software.

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Universal films deal for BBC

By RAYMOND SNOODY
MEDIA EDITOR

THE BBC has taken a financial interest in five films being made by Universal Pictures as a part of a consortium which includes a Japanese film production company and European film distributors.

SBC, a regional phone company based in Texas, last week won a controversial court battle to gain entry to the US long-distance market, which is also a target market for BT.

US phone group in \$4bn takeover

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

SBC Communications, America's second-largest telephone services provider after AT&T, yesterday launched the latest move in the merger activity that has struck the US telecommunications sector with the \$4.4 billion (£2.7 billion) takeover of Southern New England Telecommunications (SNET).

WorldCom beat BT last Oct-ober to buy MCI, the second-largest long-distance carrier, for \$37 billion in the largest takeover ever. MCI has spent several hundred million dollars trying to win regional domestic customers.

Thailand seeks new terms on rescue fund

By ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THAILAND said yesterday it is looking to renegotiate the terms of its \$17 billion (£10.4 billion) rescue fund with the International Monetary Fund because it is struggling to meet IMF budget targets.

Chuan Leekpai, the Prime Minister, admitted that the continuing economic turmoil in the country has made it unlikely Thailand will meet the IMF target of a government budget cash surplus equal to 1 per cent of GDP for this financial year.

Bre-X sues for \$2bn

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

BRE-X, the Canadian mining company, and its shareholders are suing John Felderhof, their former vice-chairman for \$2.1 billion (£1.3 billion) over his role in the world's largest gold fraud.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police recently said Mr Felderhof's role was "still an open question". Mr Felderhof is said to have earned \$35 million from selling Bre-X shares in 1996, shortly before the collapse in early 1997.

independent investigators. Cesar Puspas, Mr de Guzman's right-hand man, has been interviewed by Canadian police but has refused to participate in any further investigations.

Sylcon investors sue Barclays for deposits

By RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BARCLAYS BANK is being sued by investors who face financial ruin after putting £1.5 million into an illegally run investment company.

ly for the missing deposits. The firm was closed down by the Bank of England in late 1992 and criminal proceedings started against Harry Reuben, its founder, who died shortly after his arrest in August 1994. His two sons, Ian and Lawrence, were both jailed for two and a half years, reduced to six months on appeal, on charges connected with the collapse of Sylcon.

| Bank | Rate |
|-----------------|--------|
| Australia \$ | 2.94 |
| Belgium Ft | 2.25 |
| Canada Cdn | 64.48 |
| Denmark Dkr | 2.46 |
| France Ffr | 163.13 |
| Germany DM | 1.93 |
| Italy Lit | 1.93 |
| Japan Yen | 163.13 |
| Netherlands Gld | 2.25 |
| Spain Ptas | 163.13 |
| Switzerland Sfr | 2.25 |
| UK £ | 1.00 |
| USA \$ | 1.74 |

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Message for Geoffrey Robinson



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

The faster share prices rise, the more insistently life insurance companies tell their customers that their investment policies will deliver poor returns in future. No wonder they cannot sell many without special tax reliefs or tied outlets.

After the all-share index gained a fifth in 1995, the heads started shaking. It could not last. After a mere 10 per cent gain in 1996, warnings became dire. Returns are bound to fall in a low-inflation era and bonuses will come down. Many customers are urged to increase premiums because their endowment policies may not otherwise pay for the mortgages that most were sold to finance.

After a further 22 per cent rise in the all-share index in 1997, General Accident's GA Life has started what will doubtless be a wall-to-wall new season of lamentations. The continuing growth of share prices has left dividend rates behind and dividends are what help to make reversionary bonuses during the life of a policy. Worse is to come.

The £5 billion-a-year government raid on pension fund dividends may not directly affect endowments but will hit bonuses again if companies follow the intended incentive, or can only afford to pay a smaller proportion of profit in dividends.

GA Life might be better employed organising cohorts of institutional investors to force companies to pay out higher

dividends to compensate. Instead, it warns customers that bonuses guaranteed during the life of a policy will be smaller and that returns will depend much more on what happens to capital values, which cannot be guaranteed in advance.

Insurers should be congratulated for being frank. Once expectations have become realistic, however, there seems little point in savers taking out a long-term life policy. Without bonuses along the way, surrender values fall even further for those who cannot complete the full term.

Most homebuyers would be better off, or more secure, taking a conventional repayment mortgage. Savers merely trying to accumulate might more cheaply buy unit trusts or managed funds, topped up with pure life cover as required.

Maybe it is a particular accident that the Treasury has so far done so much to dissuade people from saving. It seems unforgivable to introduce incentives to persuade those on low incomes to put their modest savings into life assurance policies whose already meagre virtues are disappearing as a result of government policy.

According to Geoffrey Robinson, the offshore millionaire responsible, the new individual savings account will "have no requirement to lock money away for a long period". As GA concedes, however, without bonuses along the way, life assurance policies will become even more awful investments if not kept for 15-25 years. If savers are daft enough to do as Mr Robinson says, rather than as he does for himself, they will be in no danger of becoming rich.

Stapleton calls the blind men's bluff
Nigel Stapleton has pulled off something of a coup. The sale of IPC to Civen for £860 million is a neat and tidy deal, accomplished with admirable speed and thus the minimum of disruption to the underlying business.

Now the Reed Elsevier team, Civen and their respective advisers should be able to take the time to enjoy the celebrations that they had to put on hold over the festive season. Their toasts are unlikely to reflect any sympathy for the rival bidders who appear to have thought that clocks stopped ticking over the prolonged holiday period.

Inevitably, some spurned suitors for IPC now feel peeved by Civen's success but they have little ground for complaint. It was no secret that Reed wanted the IPC disposal tied up tightly so that it did not further clog up the group's complicated merger arrangements with the Wolters Kluwer publishing business. The price achieved falls comfortably into the ball park cited by Stapleton when he set the auction in progress, and that was before he had decided to hang on to the prestigious *New Scientist*.

Civen was a serious bidder from the outset. Some of those who now feel a touch aggrieved seem to have opted for a familiar brand of gamesmanship which can so protract negotiations in the corporate sector and which, as deployed on the domestic level, makes the buying and selling of houses such a ghastly operation in Britain. They have lost the bluff.

Although Stapleton had effectively put a price on his property, they lobbied in opening bids which were intended more as an indication of interest than a serious offer. They now intimate that they wanted access to more information and the chance to talk to management before coming up with a final offer. But the gap between Civen's £860 million and the sums being talked about by the rivals was sufficient to make Stapleton, advised by merchant banker SG Warburg, decide to go into exclusive negotiations with Civen — and who can blame him? One or two of the rivals might have had a little more success in muscling in on these talks if their advisers had not taken a literal view of what the

holiday season meant, leaving Civen in relative peace.

The venture capitalist is gaining a reputation worthy of the Duchess of York as a big and decisive spender. Time has not yet been able to evaluate whether these are shrewd or merely extravagant. That, however, will not be Nigel Stapleton's concern nor that of his shareholders.

Soros is making sweet Seoul music

George Soros: hostile raider or white knight? The view from Asia of the world's most famous financier fluctuates as alarmingly as its markets. Malaysia's Mahathir Mohamad is notorious for his vitriolic attacks on Soros the speculator. But now we have Soros the saviour, summoned to Seoul by Kim Dae-jung, South Korea's President-elect (chumpily dubbed DJ by Mr Soros), in the hope that he will use his money to turn the Korean economy around.

Mr Soros's presence in Seoul captures some of this ambiguity. His hint that he might make a "quite substantial" investment in Korea could be seen as the

ominous arrival of a big buyer at the car boot sale now under way in Asia. By forcing Asian economies to open up their markets to foreign ownership just when assets are cheapest and their need for cash most pressing, the IMF has ensured rick pickings for foreign investors, Mr Soros among them. Asia will never again man its own command post in the globalised economy.

But it is Mr Soros, virtually alone, who has warned of the dangers of unregulated global capital flows and suggested a new body to prevent countries such as South Korea from becoming too dependent on fickle international capital. Surely this sits uneasily with opportunistic investments in a crippled economy?

Mr Soros is not easily pigeon-holed, as many of his admirers in eastern Europe will attest. He may not be in South Korea for a quick buck but for the long term.

Bye-bye Buysse

The director of a major division of an international business ops for an abrupt early retirement in the wake of a disappointing profit performance. The company insists that there is no connection between the figures and departure of the man responsible. Naive shareholders might be tempted to ask why not. And to query why, if BTR did not want to see Paul Buysse leave, it is ready to pay him around £850,000 to go.

Orange glow diminished in race for new customers

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

THE future is becoming a little less Orange, relatively. The mobile telephone company finished last in the race to sign up new subscribers in the final quarter of 1997, according to figures released yesterday.

Orange, whose managing director is Hans Snook, added 130,000 new subscribers in the quarter, its best performance so far, to take its total number to 1.2 million. In the same

period in 1996 Orange added 125,000. But in the last three months, Celtel, the BT-Scorpio-owned company added 149,000 to take its total number to 2.99 million.

One 2 One, the Cable & Wireless-US West-owned mobile company, added 206,000 new subscribers in the quarter to take its total past 1 million.

Vodafone added the largest number of new subscribers in the fourth quarter — 241,000

net — to take its UK total to 3.14 million. Its performance was boosted by the 57,000 new connections in December to its Pay As You Talk service. The growth in the relaunched service, clearly including many Christmas presents, helped in December to give Vodafone the best individual month's performance since it launched in January 1985.

The most remarkable aspect of the figures is not who has

taken first place for the quarter but the overall growth in the UK's mobile telephone market. Together the four operators added 726,000 new net subscribers in the final quarter — the best quarterly performance.

Ms Claire Rothman, a telecommunications analyst at the stockbrokers, Societe Generale, said that she expected the strong growth to continue and that the present 15 per cent penetration of the UK population could reach 25 per cent in little more than two years.

The Vodafone share price rose 17½p to 462½p on the sales figures. Orange was down 11p at one stage yesterday but finished only 1p down, at 267p, at the close. BT, perhaps partly influenced at least by its Celtel stake, rose 10p to 489p.

Orange said yesterday that during 1997 it had increased its subscriber base by 415,000, representing more than 50 per cent net growth from a base of 785,000 at the end of December 1996. Graham Howe, Orange's finance director, said yesterday that the company was confident about further significant growth potential in the UK mobile market, "and continued growth in market share for Orange".



Hans Snook of Orange, which finished last in the quarterly new subscriber contest

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Royal Bank to buy A&P ship firm

By Chris Ayres

A&P, the UK's biggest ship repair business, is to be bought by the Royal Bank of Scotland's venture capital division in a £60 million deal (Christine Buckley writes). The bank — in its first move into the shipbuilding industry — intends to float A&P in a few years.

Royal Bank Development Capital decided to buy the majority share in A&P from Schroder and National Westminster Bank because of the business's prospects abroad. It wants to transform A&P into a global ship repair operation, and is likely to seek growth through joint ventures and buying overseas operations. International trade provides about 30 per cent of A&P sales at present.

A&P will keep its present managers, who will retain minority equity stakes.

Tobacco adverts 'loophole' threat

By Chris Ayres

CIGARETTE makers could avoid the Government's ban on tobacco advertising by using exhibition space within public areas such as railway stations to promote products.

The possible legal loophole was discovered yesterday as one of Britain's largest outdoor advertising groups, Maiden, signed a five-year deal to manage exhibition space within Railtrack's main-line stations.

Maiden said that tobacco companies, which spend an estimated £50 million a year in the UK on marketing their products, could decide to use the space as an alternative to billboard and press advertising. The company's shares rose 13½p to 319½p.

Ron Zoghbi, chief executive of Maiden, said: "I don't deny that it could be possible, but they're not doing it now. The

only reason they would want to do that would be if all their other options had run out."

The Department of Health said yesterday that it did not yet know if tobacco companies would be banned from using exhibition space. "It depends whether we decide to take a hard line, which won't be known until the White Paper comes out next month," a spokeswoman said. "The law will also be different between European member states, especially in places where there is a point-of-sale."

Maiden has agreed to manage Railtrack's exhibition space at 14 major stations, including Leeds, Manchester Piccadilly, Glasgow Central, Edinburgh Waverley, Birmingham New Street and key London termini. Maiden will be expected to share its revenues with Railtrack.

L&G bond buyback lifts shares

By Chris Ayres

SHARES in Legal & General rose 7 per cent yesterday after the insurer made a £220 million offer to buy back all its outstanding convertible bonds (Marianne Curphey writes).

The City welcomed the move as an efficient use of L&G's capital base, although there had been suggestions that the buyback was being used to thwart any prospective takeover attempts. The shares rose 42p to 590p.

The offer will close by Friday, the last business day before L&G's closed period. L&G said that if all outstanding bonds were repurchased, the cost would be about £220 million and there would be an exceptional charge of about £90 million after tax for the half year to 30 June.

Last link to Skillsgroup disappears

THE former husband and wife team who founded Skillsgroup, the information technology company, yesterday saw their final link with the business disappear (Chris Ayres writes).

Pete and Pam Fisher, who divorced in the late 1980s, founded the company as a computer distributor in 1979 under the name of P&P. Yesterday the final part of that business, P&P desktop computers, was sold to GE Capital in a £27 million deal.

Skillsgroup is now focused on two core divisions: QA, an IT training company, and Acuma, a supplier of highly skilled IT professionals.

Vodafone pays £267m to increase Libertel stake

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Editor

VODAFONE, the international mobile telephone company, yesterday agreed to pay £267.5 million for a 26.5 per cent stake in Libertel, the Dutch mobile phone company. The deal takes Vodafone's holding in the company to 61.5 per cent.

Vodafone bought the increased stake from ING Bank Corporate Investments and a number of minority shareholders. After the purchase, which is expected to be completed later this week, ING will own the remaining 38.5 per cent of the company.

Libertel controls both the

mobile operating company, which was launched two years ago, and a network operator, Liberphone. According to the latest figures, Libertel has more than 531,000 subscribers, or 31 per cent of the total Dutch market. The company last year achieved 45 per cent of the net total growth in the cellular market in The Netherlands.

Libertel is now profitable at the operating level, but it had a pre-tax loss of £51 million last year.

The purchase is in line with Vodafone's policy of increas-

ing its stakes in overseas mobile telephone companies where possible.

Chris Gent, Vodafone's chief executive, said that the market for mobile telecommunications in The Netherlands looked set for strong growth.

At the end of last month Vodafone paid £106 million, with a further payment of £25 million to come, in order to increase its shareholding in Societe Francaise du Radio-téléphone, the French digital network operator, from 16.1 per cent to 20 per cent.

Chesterfield joins £67m Glasgow deal

By Carl Mortished

CHESTERFIELD Properties is teaming up with America's largest pension fund to buy The Forge shopping centre in Glasgow from British Land Universal, a joint venture between British Land and Great Universal Stores.

Chesterfield and its US partner are paying £67.5 million for the Scottish centre and are selling a long leasehold interest in 133 Houndsditch, in the City of London, to British Land Universal for £37.5 million.

Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association expects to invest a further £250 million in UK property over the next 18 months. Duncan Watt, of Parkes and Company, which advises the US fund, said it would spend more if the right

deal came up. Teachers, with assets of \$160 billion, has bought and sold £160 million of property in the UK in the past two years, including the Kinnaird retail park, which it bought for £55 million and sold for £81 million to Pillar.

David Henderson-Williams, of Chesterfield, said that two thirds of the Forge space was due for rent review over the next 12 months. The 450,000 sq ft centre currently generates income of £4 million.

Chesterfield is selling a 200-year lease on the Houndsditch office block to Deutsche Morgan Grenfell and CE Heath, where British Land Universal owns the freehold.

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Shares soar as L&G leads charge of life companies

THE CITY sprang back to form yesterday as dealers returned from their holidays to face a soaring futures market and a strong demand for financial stocks.

More than 738 million shares changed hands since the first serious liquidity since mid-December, marking the end of the low-volume "phony market" bemoaned by dealers. But the result—a 69-point rise in the FTSE 100 to 5,262.6—was greeted with disbelief by brokers, who said the jump could only be due to unfinished book balancing.

The rise was almost entirely the work of the life assurance sector, which expanded by £1.48 billion.

Legal & General led the blue-chip advance, up 42p to a high of 590p as the market reacted to its £220 million buyback. The rise in its shares over a one-day jump in four years, leaves the shares 52p clear of their previous high.

This was enough to boost Prudential, which in spite of concerns over its regulatory record, jumped 37p to touch 800p for the first time, which dealers put down to "follow my leader".

The howling winds sweeping the country—and the City—prompted market-makers to spare a thought for Railtrack, which plunged 35p to 949p on fears that it will be spending millions clearing fallen trees from tracks and repairing damaged stations. Also, the plight of companies running trains and buses was not forgotten. National Express, which runs five rail franchises, lost 4p to 689p, while Stagecoach, its rival, lost 1p to close at 836p. FirstGroup, formerly FirstBus and the UK's largest bus operator, also softened 1p, to 223p.

The train operators are understood to have had an abysmal end to 1997, with performance figures slumping to new lows. Many are expected to place the blame with Railtrack and demand it refunds any penalty payments they have to suffer in consequence.

The mystery of what really happened on the high street at Christmas will begin to be unravelled today as John Hoerner, chief executive of Burton Group, delivers end-of-year sales figures. The shares firmed 4p ahead at 140p, even though a growing number of analysts are turn-



John Hoerner, of Burton, 4p higher, with fashion model

ing bearish on the company. The market began to hedge its bets on the winners and losers. Panmure Gordon, the broker, suspects Boots, up 18p to 599p, will have fared better than most and expects profit upgrades. Société Générale has a downer on Argos, which dropped 15p to 536p and is expected to drift towards a two-year low today. Body Shop found itself

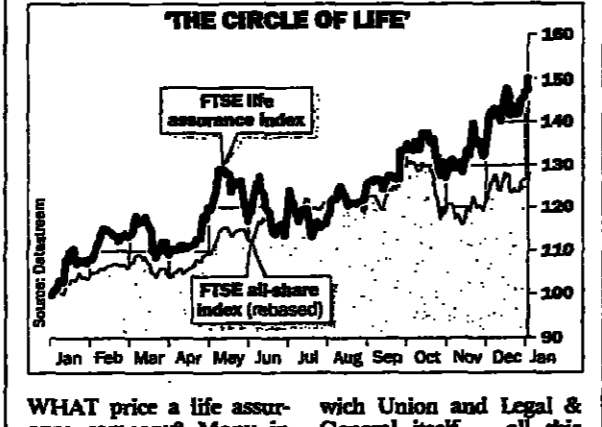
short of supporters, the shares dropping 1p to a two-year low of 140p. Hope that Dixons may be in line for a second-wave of winfall spending evaporated, taking shares of the electronics chain back 6p to their August low of 602p. Carpetright, which claims it missed out on windfall spending in the summer, strengthened 15p to 473p on hopes that it may have had better

luck this time around. The downturned pharmaceutical sector was given some support after good news from Chiroscience, up 14p to 237p, as one of its cancer inhibitors passed Phase I trials. The whole sector rose by 1.94 per cent, mainly the work of a 30p rise in Zecca, now £22.25 and Glaxo Wellcome, up 47p to £15.10. Both reported progress in development of their anti-migraine drugs.

Two of the shares tipped by The Times's own Tempus took off in strong form. Billiton, the aluminium company, added 5p to 166p, after being weighed down by collapse in value of its copper and gold-dominated peers. Directors of Laporte also followed Tempus's advice and bought £2 million of shares at 65p, sending the shares up 17p to 69p.

Technivest, the tip sheet, seems to have spurred its readers into action on the Alternative Investment Market with Highams Systems, up 35p to a high of 190p, and BCO Technologies up 26p to 192p.

AIM's Abacus Recruitment continued to enjoy its newfound fame as the second most successful London-listed share in 1997, and rose a further 22p yesterday to a new high of 355p. Coffee Republic was also reeling from its ten minutes of fame as one of the steepest risers, adding 1p—or 6 per cent—to 26p. SBS Group firmed 5p to a high of 210p, now double its August price, on hope of positive news at this week's annual meeting. GILT-EDGED: Yesterday's gloomy warnings about a sharp economic slowdown this year left almost every City analyst confident that the Bank of England will not feel inclined to crank up interest rates when it meets tomorrow.



WHAT price a life assurance company? Many in the City think that, with their shares 25 times earnings, the financials are spinning way beyond their fundamental value. Legal & General's buyback has helped to lift the sector to new heights, with five of its nine members at all-time peaks. The driver is takeover speculation. No matter what shares' fundamental value, they are a buy if there is a chance of a takeover bid from a predator. So witness the rise of London & Manchester, Nor-

Table with columns for COCOA, ROBUSTA COFFEES, WHITE SUGAR, and MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION. Includes prices for various commodities.

Table for LONDON METAL EXCHANGE with columns for Copper, Zinc, Lead, Tin, Nickel, and Aluminium prices.

Table for LONDON GRAIN FUTURES with columns for WHEAT, BARLEY, RYE, and BEANS prices.

Table for LONDON OILS with columns for Brent Physical, Brent 2y, Brent 5y, and WTI prices.

Table for LONDON STOCKS with columns for Abbey Natl Dublin, Autologic, BCO Technologies, and others.

Table for FTSE 100 and FTSE All-Share with columns for index values and changes.

Table for FOREIGN EXCHANGE with columns for various currencies like Euro, Swiss Franc, Japanese Yen, etc.

Table for GOLD and SILVER with columns for prices and changes.

Table for NEW YORK (MIDDAY) with columns for Dow Jones, S&P Composite, Nikkei Average, and others.

Table for TOKYO with columns for Nikkei Average and Hang Seng.

Table for HONG KONG with columns for Hang Seng.

Table for AMSTERDAM with columns for ANEX Index and Sydney.

Table for SYDNEY with columns for ANEX Index and Frankfurt.

Table for FRANKFURT with columns for DAX and Singapore.

Table for SINGAPORE with columns for Straits.

Table for BRUSSELS with columns for Generali and Paris.

Table for PARIS with columns for CAC-40 and Zurich.

Table for ZURICH with columns for SKA Gen and London.

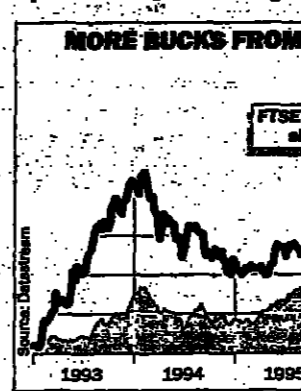
Oranges or lemons

MOBILE phone enthusiasts are fond of quoting statistics about market penetration. They point to the one in four Italians who own one, compared with a 15 per cent penetration rate in Britain. That, they say, proves that the UK has miles to go. One might consider whether a cultural fondness for handheld accessories accounts for the difference but such statistics are curious rather than a reason to invest.

Subscription figures from the four network operators indicate that success does not come cheap. Vodafone managed to add a net 241,000 subscribers in the final quarter, almost double the rate of growth achieved by its high-profile rival Orange. One 2 One also achieved more than 200,000 additions, leaving Orange and Celtel with a marketing problem. But the interesting issue is raised by the reason for Vodafone's success—a price cut just before the

Christmas selling season, a massive £12 million ad campaign and the purchase of the retailer People's Phone which gave Vodafone distribution clout on the high street. The trouble with this industry is that it sells a commodity—the four networks each have virtually achieved total coverage of the UK. The product is distinguished on price alone and the added gloss of branding. The failure of Orange to maintain its initial market share gain suggests the public have become inured to brand promotion and Orange will need to spend much more to regain its growth track. In addition, Vodafone's rivals need good high street outlets with big retailers the obvious allies. Ultimately, one network could break ranks and bring on a ruinous price war that could even spoil the party for Vodafone but for the time being its leadership seems secure.

shopping is still weak, and rents in Central London are reaching levels where small retailers are dangerously exposed. The picture is much brighter for City offices where the lack of new office is creating a shortage. The amount of new space to be completed over the next two years is just 2 million square feet and the shortage can only mean a sharp rise in rents on the way.



Good news for those property companies with exposure to City office property. Companies like British Land will do well as will Greycoat which has several development schemes under way. If the Bank of England obliges with a cut in interest rates, these shares look more

PROPERTY shares have nicely outperformed since the market collapse in 1990 but on a ten-year view, this sector has been a terrible investment, well underperforming the market as a whole. Much of that has to do with the nature of property recession. The illiquidity of the underlying bricks and mortar—and the tendency of banks to nurse bad property loans—means a slow descent and even slower recovery. The question is how much further does this recovery have to go. The signs are that there is at least another 18 months of growth in the pipeline but the heavy rise in retail rents could begin to slow. Town centre rents in northern towns such as Leeds and Liverpool surged by 25 per cent over the past six months, but provincial high street

ever, there is likely to be good news ahead: those institutions who held L&G bonds will seek to build up their weighting in the company's share instead, and there is still time for a bidder to make an approach. The shares still have some way to go.

Legal & General

THE insurance sector is rife with rumours of takeovers and mergers but if Legal & General had anything to report it would have had to show its hand yesterday. Instead, the silence accompanying the share buyback suggests nothing much is afoot. Some analysts see the £220 million offer as defensive—buying back outstanding convertible bonds prevents a predator quietly building up a stake. European insurers are said to be prowling around Legal & General while UK banks are looking glibly at life insurers, keen not to miss out on the extra margin to be gained from cost-cutting and consolidation. Investors will be disappointed that a takeover premium is not about to be offered to them on a plate. Instead they will have to be content with yesterday's 7 per cent share price rise. How-

Sunderland

AFTER being out of favour for months the football club is starting to show signs of life again, albeit by exhibiting the negative behavioural traits that bedevilled its boom period a year ago. Legal & General, Manchester United and Newcastle United in the FA Cup pushed up their shares while a defeat for Chelsea had a similar effect on its parent company, Chelsea Village. But the company which enjoyed the best flip from the knockout competition was Sunderland, whose shares jumped 27p to 375p. There is little logic in buying a share on the basis of one game but there is good reason why Sunderland shares are attractive at these levels. The Wearside club's performance on and off the field has been disappointing since its float—the team was relegated from the Premiership and the shares now stand a little over half their post float peak. But if City analysts took a close look at the sports pages, they might rerate Sunderland. Bob Murray, the club's chairman, vowed that relegation would not badly dent its finances, thanks to the building of its 42,000 seater Stadium of Light. In the game before Christmas, against Bradford City of all teams, the stadium was packed, and the average gate this season is approaching twice last year's. Sunderland's form also indicates a possible return to the Premiership. But as the season progresses, it is the shares which will be due for promotion.

Closing Prices Page 29

Table for FOREIGN EXCHANGE with columns for various currencies like Euro, Swiss Franc, Japanese Yen, etc.

Table for GOLD and SILVER with columns for prices and changes.

Table for LONDON STOCKS with columns for various companies like AstraZeneca, AstraZeneca, AstraZeneca, etc.

Table for FOREIGN EXCHANGE with columns for various currencies like Euro, Swiss Franc, Japanese Yen, etc.

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Large advertisement for 'Just deserv' water featuring a bottle and the text 'Just deserv Water'.

Risk Brown must take to make his policies pay

The Chancellor's recent emphasis on the need for pay restraint is an important new element in the Government's approach to economic policy and the problem of reducing unemployment.

Hitherto, ministers have spoken as if Welfare to Work and training measures would in themselves reduce unemployment. But his Pre-Budget Report effectively acknowledged that making people more anxious, or able, to work will not reduce unemployment, unless at the same time there is an increase in demand and hence more jobs.

Such an increase in demand would only be permissible if the increased competition for jobs made it possible to reduce unemployment without stimulating higher pay increases. In this case, and if there were also a measure of pay restraint, the Treasury estimates that unemployment might be reduced by 1.25 per cent or about 350,000.

The key question is will the Bank of England, anxious to achieve its inflation target, and the Chancellor, wedded to fiscal prudence, risk allowing demand to rise sufficiently to achieve even this modest reduction

McDonald's has announced pay increases of up to 8 per cent, the latest in a rash of steep rises across industry. Is it time for the Government to contemplate an incomes policy, not just a national minimum wage, asks John Grieve Smith

in unemployment? It seems doubtful, given that the effects on inflation will be unproven for some time.

Why then is the Chancellor not prepared to seek a more formal commitment to pay restraint from unions and employers — a "national consensus on pay". On the Treasury's own arguments, this would make possible a more substantial reduction in unemployment, and its effects would be more clearly assured.

The Chancellor went strangely out of his way to deny the trade unions (and employers' organisations) any role in his pay restraint exercise, saying that "pay decisions are made not by the few in smoke-filled rooms but by millions of employees and employers across the country". The world has changed, but not that much. Trade unions still play an important role in pay determination in the private, as well as the public sector. Unionised firms tend to be

larger and pay more. Any breakthrough on pay is more likely to come from wage increases in large unionised firms in, say, the motor industry, than non-unionised employers in small firms.

The national minimum wage could also be a significant factor. Its introduction and subsequent increases could spark off inflationary increases elsewhere (and thus partly nullify the objective of improving the relative position of the low paid) unless it were part of a properly structured approach to pay.

Any effective policy for restraint needs to be based on agreement with the unions and employers' organisations on a clear set of principles covering both the private and public sectors. These would have to get away from the fallacy that pay increases should reflect gains in productivity in particular firms or sectors. Some sectors, particularly in

manufacturing, have scope for technical advance and improvements in productivity; others, including most public services, do not.

Tying pay increases to productivity increases in each individual sector would mean that people working in education or retailing, for example, would lag further behind those elsewhere. This is neither equitable, nor in accord with market forces, which tend to equalise pay for similar skills in different sectors.

The only valid general principle is that people's pay in real terms (ie, after allowing for inflation) should increase broadly in line with the gain in productivity across the economy as a whole. Hence, to be consistent with an inflation target of 2.5 per cent, actual increases should average 4.5 to 5 per cent, which is slightly higher than the current rate. There must, however, be a considerable measure of flexibility to allow for differing

circumstances in particular firms or industries, including some catching up in the public sector.

The Government must concede that pay increases in the public sector should keep pace with the private sector, and plan expenditure accordingly. In view of the limited scope for increases in productivity in public services, this means that to keep a constant labour force the total public sector pay bill must rise faster than the cost of living. (The Treasury misleadingly refers to these as "real increases" when they merely maintain current standards.)

Now is the ideal time to reach a consensus on pay when there is no immediate threat of unforeseen price increases stimulating embarrassing pay demands. Admittedly, anything that smacks of incomes policy involves obvious political risks, but unless the Government is prepared to take this risk, it is in danger of appearing more anxious to keep out of political hot water than to achieve real results.

John Grieve Smith is the author of *Full Employment: A Pledge Betrayed*.

MARKETING

Advertisers get a guide to the money jungle

For the first time in more than a decade, the marketing industry is striving to shed light on one of the few remaining areas that has stayed resolutely in the shadows: advertising agency remuneration.

A report due out next week is set to end some of the old practices that have kept marketers and their boards in the dark about the financial arrangements with advertising agencies.

This lack of transparency, many claim, has been the root of so much discord between clients and agencies. After all, remuneration is more than money by another name. It sets the tone of a relationship, which, in turn, reflects the quality of the advertising.

Above all, the industry hopes that the report will foster openness and put the agency/client relationship back on an equal footing after a long period of adversity. The 1990s are littered with splits between agencies and clients over money.

Debbie Morrison, director of membership services for the Incorporated Society of British Advertisers (ISBA) and co-author of the report, says that the time has come to reappraise the way business deals with their advertising agencies.

Competition has not yet begun in household electricity and industry signals are growing stronger that the planned April start will be delayed. But with the programme for gas being brought forward and with many customers already active switchers it is hard to see how such perceived inequities can be corrected.

Oligas is now taking soundings on bringing forward the date for all households to join in the gas market by a month to May 23. If that happens it will be heralded as a triumph by the Department of Trade and Industry and the regulator. They will toast the price reductions delivered to customers and be satisfied that the problems encountered along the way have not been sufficient to threaten the programme.

But having delivered the provision of gas almost wholesale into the hands of the market — barring short-term price constraints which will still operate on British Gas — they will have to cross their fingers that the whole project does not backfire.

The year-long survey, by the ISBA and the University of Plymouth Business School, is intended to give the industry its first rudimentary benchmarks. The report highlights widespread ignorance among businessmen on remuneration. How an industry spending £2.5 billion a year on advertising can be so unaware of its finances beggars belief.

Paul Simons, chief executive of the TBWA Simons Palmer advertising agency and a former Cadbury Schweppes marketer, says: "So many people on the

client side know so little about where their money is going. Bizarre though it may seem, when it comes to remuneration there appears to have been an unwritten rule not to talk about money."

Although ignorance can, in part, be accepted as the result of a lack of information and of a culture of meek acceptance, what is inexcusable is that two fifths of companies do not audit financial records on their account.

Not only do they not know where their money goes, but it seems that they do not know what it is buying. A while ago, the industry rebranded with stories of agencies keeping double-entry books, issuing invoices for work never done and hoarding discounts from media owners and not passing them on to the advertiser. All this took place under the noses of compliant companies.

If such home truths are hard to accept, the report's other findings will be lapped up readily because they confirm what has, until now, been industry speculation.

Companies are moving from the commission system of paying advertising agencies. Until recently, most remuneration deals let the agency take as its payment a cut — anything up to 15 per cent — of a company's media spend. Now only a third of companies use the commission system. Replacing it is a "reward by results" system, which details remuneration terms at the outset. If sales rise, the agency should be rewarded. It is a popular method set to be the standard in the next few years, industry observers say.

Tim File, chairman of the ISBA executive and marketing director of Alliance & Leicester, says that the new method will herald an era of co-operation between clients and agencies. "Like a marriage, it's down to many factors, but I think it'll help to engender upfront agreements and an open-book policy," he said. "That can only lead to greater levels of satisfaction and trust."

Paul Simons believes it makes for a more stable relationship that is "a lot better for both us and the client". He said: "You might not get the windfall profits, but you won't also get hit if the budget is slashed."

Paying for Advertising — How Advertisers remunerate their Agencies, is available from the ISBA

JULIAN LEE

Impending full competition in household gas could backfire

Christine Buckley questions whether the customer really will be king in the long term

Clare Spottiswoode, the gas regulator, is about to play the latest card in her game of poker with British Gas. She will, in the next few days, sanction the prices with which the privatised gas company can do battle against a myriad of rivals as what remains of its household monopoly is dismantled.

Oligas is set to insist that national price cuts planned to start next week also apply to poorer customers on pre-payment meters. In a few months, one of the promises that underpinned utility privatisation will have been delivered — every household will be able to shop around for its gas supplier.

By the time it is complete, the programme to deliver competition in household gas will have taken two years. It is a scheme that has not been without its teething problems but it is one that has fundamentally shifted the emphasis of household energy from monopoly provision to consumer choice.

Whether or not this choice proves to be of any real value in the long term, and whether the customer continues to be king, is still at issue. Consumer groups will have watched with fear recent developments in the industrial gas market, where previously valued and highly sought-after customers are now facing sharp price hikes.

At least for now, many household customers are seeing the benefits from a vigorous, if unsustainable, long-term fight for business. Next month homes across an area of northern England stretching from Lancashire to North Yorkshire will be able to switch from British Gas to a host of other suppliers. They will join three other regions of England and Scotland that have already been given the opportunity to shop around and receive cuts of up to 25 per cent on their bills — dependent

on their usage and method of payment. Nearly a fifth of the 4.5 million homes offered the choice have opted to leave British Gas and buy from more than a dozen companies.

Competition among companies has been sharp and many industry observers believe the new suppliers are trading at a loss or at the very best on water-thin margins in order to win market share. Already there has been consolidation among the new gas players in the takeover by Amerada Hess of SwobGas, and some view the selling down by Calor's Dutch parent of its stake in Calortex as clear evidence that gas competition may be too cut-throat to support a large number of businesses. Yesterday Shell merged all of its North Sea gas marketing divisions so that a single company will serve its industrial and commercial customers.

The fight for business has not only been waged through price. Marketing has been in the front line of the battle. In the early days of gas competition in the South West SwobGas, the gas offshoot of the regional electricity company, was reprimanded by the Office of Fair Trading after a stream of complaints about aggressive doorstep selling. Genuine customer confusion over gas competition in the opening phase had compounded unscrupulous selling and led to a situation that even the industry regulator admitted had damaged the public perception of the new dawn in utility customer choice.

Since then British Gas has been taken to task by Oligas, the watchdog, for an advertising campaign depicting its rivals as sales people with Pinnocchio-like growing noses. While the excesses of gas marketing are to be deplored, the elevation of the customer to object of desire and courtship is to be cautiously welcomed if it proves enduring. But not all customers have been the winners

in the new gas age — some have been distinctly more attracted to gas companies than others. The losers have been poorer customers, particularly those on pre-payment meters. While companies have been keen to woo households willing to pay by direct debit they have been less willing to offer attractive tariffs to those on pre-payment meters. They claim that these customers cost more to service, ignoring the fact that such consumers provide companies with immediate cash, unlike every other gas user who pays



What's cooking: every household will soon be able to shop around for its gas supplier

in arrears. This week Oligas will insist that pre-payment meter customers of British Gas also benefit from price cuts that the company intends to give its other customers. But the regulator is powerless against the pre-payment policies of other gas suppliers because the newcomers are not subject to regulation.

The Government says that it is committed to putting the consumer at the heart of utility regulation. So far it has done nothing to stop discriminatory pricing. It is possible Labour will act to address some of the

concerns that gas competition is worsening the divide between rich and poor in its green paper on utility regulation, which is due to be published in the next few weeks.

Businesses, too, have been complaining of being disadvantaged as the first of the energy markets is rolled out to competition. This week officials from the gas and electricity regulators' offices start sifting through responses to their joint investigation into dual fuel offers. Gas companies are concerned that electricity com-

Just deserts?

MANY and various are the lengths to which some people will go to get away from it all. Colleagues of Robert Maxted, chief executive of Chesterfield Properties, are anxiously awaiting news. The company has just completed a property swap with British Land, without too much last-minute help from Maxted who has spent the holiday wandering across the Eritrean desert. (He apparently has a bit of a thing about deserts).

Maxted wisely decided to consult an expert before he set off to the Horn

of Africa. He contacted Wilfred Theisger, the veteran explorer, and was invited around for tea with the great man. "Protect your lower regions," was the advice. Or something like that. Apparently, some of the indigenous tribes are inclined to help themselves to souvenirs.

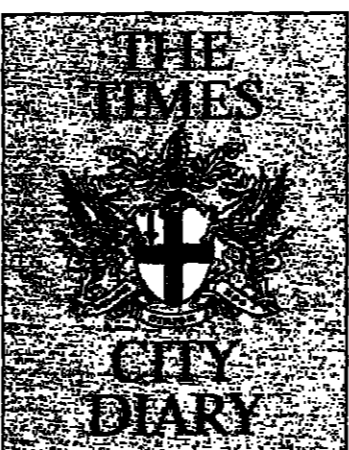
CSEB finally took over management of BZW's equities and corporate finance businesses yesterday. Executives are so delighted at the knock-down price of £100 million they paid to Barclays, I hear, that they are thinking of erecting a statue at Canary Wharf of the bank's chief executive, Martin Taylor... for services to CSEB.



What odds on them stopping the Ladbroke takeover?

Water torture

AS you prepare to head into work by canoe this morning, take comfort from this. There is now the distinct possibility that we will not suffer water shortages this summer, because reservoirs around the country are mostly as full as your cellar. The Water Companies Association was being a bit of a wet blanket yesterday, saying only months of steady drizzle could restore underground supplies to anything like normal, or something miserable like that. But having made my way in through the



Ballardian drowned landscape that is the capital, I rang three actual water companies around the country. Thames is "cautiously optimistic" that there would be enough water come the summer, its spokesman yells over the howling storm in the background. At Yorkshire, they could do with a bit more heavy rainfall in the east of the region, which I am sure would cheer up the inhabitants of Scarborough no end. "We're confident of meeting our customers' needs, but it's the usual case: never say never."

And at South West, once again, "you can never say never", but the reservoirs are almost all full and things are looking good. "But you can't tell what the weather is going to do long term," their man says. "There is always the possibility of dry wea-

ther spells in the future." There is an oddly wistful note in his voice.

Hunger pangs

THE latest in a continuing series of things to worry about that might never have occurred to you otherwise. Forget the shortage of computer programmers to prepare us for the millennium but, the most pressing need just at the moment is for those people who dream up new delectables in TV dinners and instant meals. There is a lack of qualified food technicians with relevant degrees in food science, home economics or food biochemistry.

Manufacturers are fighting over the available staff, forcing salaries up by 25 per cent over the past six months, says the Daniel Bates Partnership, a specialist consultancy. This "could ultimately lead to a decline in British food manufacturing". And doom us all to a future of eating nothing but chicken tikka masala.

OVERHEARD on Radio 5 yesterday: a US journalist who referred to a London securities house called "Deutsch, Morgan and Grunfeld (sic). Some Chicagoan folk memory, perhaps, of Henry Grunfeld, one of the founders of SG Warburg?

Open season

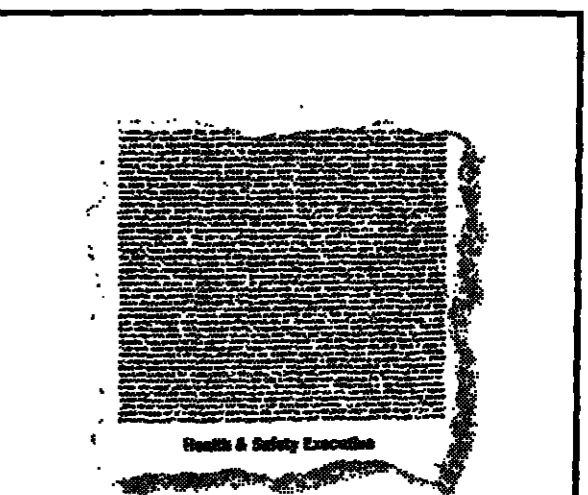
A PROSPECT to strike fear into those being relocated downriver to the new

Financial Services Authority: the offices at Canary Wharf, the boss has declared, are to be open plan. Howard Davies has decided that rows of cubby-holes are old hat, or hierarchical, or something like that, and everyone must muck in together. There will be a few meeting rooms so guilty pensioners sellers and insurance company men can march in for a serious kicking, are not exposed to the cruel gaze of the multitude. But even the great man will not himself have his own office, I am told. Instead he will presumably flit around appearing unbidden at subordinates' shoulders. Such is democracy.

MARTIN WALLER



Howard Davies is going for an open plan look at the FSA



A hard hat won't protect you from this. But we can.

Corporate • Construction
Intellectual Property
Litigation • Pensions • Property
Rowe & Maw
LAWYERS FOR BUSINESS
20 Black Friars Lane, London EC4V 6HD
Tel: 0171 248 4282

Table of unit trust prices for the first column, including various fund names and their corresponding prices.

Table of unit trust prices for the second column, continuing the list of funds and their prices.

Table of unit trust prices for the third column, containing the final set of fund names and prices.

Advertisement for 'WITHDRAWN' featuring a large 'X' over the word and contact information for 2 Torrington Place, London WC1E 7HW.

Handwritten text at the bottom center of the page, possibly a signature or note.

Shares end on session highs

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

| ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES | BANKS | BREWERIES, PUBS & REST | DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS | ENGINEERING VEHICLES | FOOD MANUFACTURERS | LEISURE & HOTELS | MINING | PROPERTY | TELECOMMUNICATIONS | TEXTILES & APPAREL | TRANSPORT | WATER |
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| ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES | BANKS | BREWERIES, PUBS & REST | DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS | ENGINEERING VEHICLES | FOOD MANUFACTURERS | LEISURE & HOTELS | MINING | PROPERTY | TELECOMMUNICATIONS | TEXTILES & APPAREL | TRANSPORT | WATER |

| ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES | BANKS | BREWERIES, PUBS & REST | DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS | ENGINEERING VEHICLES | FOOD MANUFACTURERS | LEISURE & HOTELS | MINING | PROPERTY | TELECOMMUNICATIONS | TEXTILES & APPAREL | TRANSPORT | WATER |
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SHARE PROBLEMS

The Samaritans
0345 90 90 90



Source: FT Information. All figures are in pence unless otherwise stated. All figures are in pence unless otherwise stated. All figures are in pence unless otherwise stated.

From zero to fever pitch

Donald Hutera looks at one of the darker stars of the London Mime Festival, which opens on Saturday



Derevo's *The Red Zone* takes the human comedy several anarchic leaps into the future

LONDON

CELLO RECITAL: The acclaimed cellist Alexander Kabanov, one of a select three nominated by Scriabin for having written for him, performs a programme featuring sonatas by Prokofiev, Scriabin and Shostakovich. He is accompanied on the piano by Irina Schmitz, wife of the composer Wladimir. Wignmore Hall, Wignmore Street, W1 (0171-935 2141). Tonight, 7.30pm. £

CINDERELLA: The Royal Ballet's season at the South Bank continues with a production of Sir Frederick Ashton's ever-popular, first full-length work. The six separate acts scheduled offer a chance to sample the talents of several company principals. Sylvie Guillem dances the title role tonight. It is followed by Doreen Gribble, Victoria Duan, Mayako Yamada and the principal company principals. South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4240). Tonight-Fri, 7.30pm; Sat, 7pm; next Wed, 7.30pm; Sun, 2.30pm; Jan 12-16, 7.30pm; Jan 17, 2pm and 7pm. £

DO YOU COME HERE OFTEN? The scintillating comedy, *Hamlet* by McCool and Sean Tully (aka *The Right Stuff*), arrives in the West End with their first fantasy of two men trapped in a bathroom. Part of the *Live At The Lush* season. Vaudeville Theatre, The Strand, WC2 (0171-936 9977). Presale tonight and tomorrow, 7.30pm; Queens Theatre, 7.30pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; next Sat, 4pm. Until Feb 14.

THE MAGIC FLUTE: Peter Krapp's Travelling Opera Company and Orchestra continue their season of mounting operas accessible to everyone with a performance of their excellent version of Mozart's most beautiful work. Bartolomeo, St. James's Park, SW1 (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7.30pm. £

PLG YOUNG ARTISTS: The Park Lane Group's annual showcase for gifted young artists continues with two concerts tonight. Reading of proceedings (6pm) is the planet Eugenia Chudinovich with a programme of selected pieces by Shostakovich, David Bedford, Stravinsky and Schubert. While at 7.30pm the soprano Sarah McKeown, pianist Stephen de Ridge and Jeremy Young and cellist Alexander Taylor perform works by Mark-Anthony Turnage, Dominic Mulrow and Darius Milhaud. Victoria Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4240).

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Mark Hargis



The Broadway Show arrives in Brighton

ELSEWHERE

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GLASGOW: The new season begins with Robert David Mitchell's *The Two Houses*, a new three-hander involving a married couple and the husband's (male) secretary. Clackmannon (Stable Studio), Gt Glasgow (0141-423 0022). Free preview tonight, 7.30pm. Opens tomorrow, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm.

MANCHESTER: Down on the Lowly. Gareth Armstrong's new production some of the most beautiful and enduring operatic melodies ever written. Among the composers featured are Schubert, Mozart, Schubert, Strauss and Tchaikovsky. She is accompanied by the Manchester Sinfonietta Orchestra conducted by Peter Bayly. Bridgewater Hall, Lower Mosely St (0161-407 9000). Tonight, 8pm. £

LONDON GALLERIES

British Museum: Carter 1900-1930. (0171-323 2829). Design Museum: A tour of design history today (0171-750 8025). Museum of London: Bodiam Custody, care and cure (0171-520 0857). Museum of Transport: Marriage A-la-Mode (0171-747 2985). National Portrait: Sir Henry Raeburn (0171-305 0055).

THEATRE GUIDE

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THE CASTLE SPECTRE: *Johnny Coyle*, the modern-day Shakespeare. *Monk*, *Leaves*, *Armed and Dangerous*. *Man of Straw*. *Monk*, *Leaves*, *Armed and Dangerous*. *Man of Straw*. *Monk*, *Leaves*, *Armed and Dangerous*.

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CINEMA GUIDE

STARSHIP TROOPERS (15): Hot-shot soldiers battle alien invaders. *Starship Troopers*.

SPACEWORLD (PG): Five crazy days with the Space Force. *Spaceworld*.

THE WINGS OF THE DOVE (18): Truly hot photo adaptation of Henry James's novel. *The Wings of the Dove*.

I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER (18): *I Know What You Did Last Summer*.

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Anton Adassinsky knows his red noses. "Laughter is the last rope which is connecting people on this planet," declares this former pupil and colleague of the great Russian clown, Slava Polunin. "If it breaks - if you stop the laughing - this will be the apocalypse. That is why clowning for me, is one of the big missions in the world."

Good news for Adassinsky: the current London theatre season is crawling with clowns. *Snowshow* has just finished a third run. This week *Cirque du Soleil* swings its latest extravaganza into the Albert Hall. And on Saturday the 1998 London International Mime Festival launches two weeks of physical/visual theatre in venues across the capital.

Some of the festival roster is pure foolery, from the parody acrobatics of France's *Les Acrobaches* to the Anglo-Spanish absurdities of *Peepolykus*. But as the festival co-directors Helen Lannaghan and Joseph Seelig annually remind us, there are deeper, more disturbing forces lurking in the art of clowning. And the members of Adassinsky's Dresden-based collective, *Derevo*, are among the bravest fools ready to unleash them.

The best clowns, Adassinsky is aware, usually possess a tragic wisdom that transcends white-faced, baggy-trousered, big-headed big top traditions. *Red Zone*, Derevo's brunt, non-narrative vision of the human comedy, takes this notion several anarchic, *fin de siècle* leaps further.

This short, stinging show was a late-night sell-out on last year's Edinburgh Fringe, where it won the first Total Theatre Award for Most Innovative International Production. It caught up a band of shrewdly chosen and misanthropic mutants whose wry, often semi-nude bodies are caked in white. (This is more a stylistic homage to Japan's radical, post-Hiroshima performance art form *butoh* than it is a slap in the face to standard clown slap and garb.) Against a pulsating soundtrack, these

violent-souled jesters negotiate daring, drastic turns in mood and tone. Whether caught on the floor in a frantic, fetal writhe, or statuesquely hitting a ball back and forth in clockwork stow-motion, they seem simultaneously to court and fend off chaos.

Audiences may find *Red Zone* intellectually opaque yet viscerally piercing. For the company, Adassinsky says, "It's a very sad show. Sometimes it's so sad it comes to a point - a kind of universal sadness - that doesn't make you sad any more."

"*Red Zone* is hard for us," he continues in rapid, articulate broken English. "It's not funny at all. In fact, two hours before we cannot speak, cannot joke. How to live these days, this month, that's what we do onstage. We are not actors there: we don't play anything. We just open our hearts, our souls, and what was inside one week, maybe one year ago, comes out as a kind of waterfall."

Sharp-featured and fit, Adassinsky was born 38 years ago in Siberia. He studied music and movement before becoming a collage drawn from the Russian rock group Avia. He was also a member of Polunin's troupe, *Licedi*. In the late 1980s he became creatively restless and decided to start his own theatre school. Inundated with applicants, he selected 50 and began a year's intensive training based on instinct and a daily regimen of specially invented exercises designed to strengthen mind, body and soul.

"We'll found a school based on zero," Adassinsky recalls telling his students. "How to be zero, how to do nothing. It's so funny how people try to be zero. They're full of emotions, ideas, opinions, feelings. It takes time to reach the place of immobility, transparency - the zero. But after you find it, probably then you can do something."

The original student body dwindled to 12, then five. In 1988 this core group formed *Derevo* (Russian for "tree").

Petersburg, Amsterdam, Prague, Florence and, since 1995, Dresden, in a sense, all of Derevo's creative roads lead back to *Red Zone*. "It is now a kind of prayer for us," Adassinsky says. "To keep the conditions of our first rehearsal, to remember how we start, that's important. We still have this feeling of an underground

company. We have to keep this, even if we go up top and play Broadway."

Red Zone is at the Pall Mall South Bank (0171-960 4240) Jan 10-17, 8pm, then in Coventry (Jan 16-17), Hemel Hempstead (Jan 21), Southampton (Jan 23), Frinton (Jan 29), Brighton (Jan 30-31), Leicester (Feb 7) and Northampton (Feb 8). *Mime Festival* information: 0171-637 5661

Their first show - *Red Zone* in its earliest incarnations - was a collage drawn from each graduate's final solo "exam". The company's repertoire now includes a handful of ensemble and solo shows. Adassinsky continues to teach his School on Wheels, named in part from the fact that both it and Derevo have had so many temporary homes: St

that contrasted tellingly with his previous plangency.

His solo set having concluded with an appropriately pookish, stride-solo visit to Erroll Garner's *Play Piano Play*, Rebello was joined for the concert's second half by a rhythm section comprising a long-time associate, bassist Wayne Batchelor, and a more recent partner, drummer Darren Beckert. The latter proved a deft, subtly assertive player, and he propelled the trio skilfully through an intelligent programme of standards (Cole Porter's *Anything Goes*), modern classics (Bill Evans' *Blue in Green*) and originals. By the end the encore's family tricky *Giant Steps* was reached, it was clear that Jason Rebello was back on the UK jazz scene to stay.

NEW RELEASES

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BACK IN BUSINESS

I f Jason Rebello had suffered any anxiety about falling into dis disfavour in the jazz world because of his recent two-year absence in a Buddhist monastery, the prolonged and spontaneously affectionate applause that greeted his arrival on stage at the beginning of this, his chief comeback gig, should have put his mind at rest.

Even more reassuring, however, must have been the enthusiastic reaction to the first offering in his solo piano set since it was clearly a response to his musical prowess, happily undimmed during his extended absence from the scene.

No one has ever doubted that Rebello is possessed of a great pianistic gift. While still a teenager, already a graduate of the Guildhall School of Music, he won both the Pat Smythe Award and *Wire* magazine's Most

JAZZ

Promising Newcomer Award; before he was 25, he had made three albums for a major label, BMG's Novus, had appeared on numerous recordings as a session man, and played with both the Hallé and the New Symphony Orchestra.

What he chiefly lacked - according to the critical consensus on his own slightly characterless fusion-centred albums, was a clear sense of musical direction.

The cognogy of Rebello's opening selection, composed specially for this concert, removed all doubt on this particular score. His great technical strengths - delicacy of touch, fluency of execution, a burnished, pellucid tone

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Richard Cork on the intriguing history of George Stubbs's *Whistlejacket*, the National Gallery's new £11 million buy

The horse that unseated a King

Horses play weary, incidental roles in most of the National Gallery's British paintings. They strain to pull the heaped wagon in Gainsborough's *The Market Cart* and look scarcely less burdened in Constable's thunderous *Salisbury Cathedral from the Meadows*, heaving a cart through water beneath an apocalyptic sky.

But in George Stubbs's astonishing *Whistlejacket*, acquired for just over £11 million with a 75 per cent grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, a horse is placed centre-stage. Nothing is allowed to distract attention from the magnificence of the animal himself. Painted nearly life-size, he is seen in proud isolation. Nor is he constrained by any of the bridles, saddles, stirrups and blinkers imposed on the horses in Stubbs's other, smaller pictures near by. They all look placid and obedient, trained to comply with their riders' whims. *Whistlejacket*, by contrast, bears scant trace of human dominance. He may be faultlessly groomed, but the horse is unshackled by the normal limits of human ownership. He seems to have been set free, and celebrates his liberation by rearing in the air.

Painted nearly life-size, the horse is seen in proud isolation



Stubbs's thoroughbred *Whistlejacket*: the horse, the whole horse and nothing but the horse, for political as well as artistic reasons

Why did Stubbs depict him without a rider? After all, *Whistlejacket* was a widely admired racehorse. In 1759, three years before this picture was painted, he won a renowned victory over Brutus at Newmarket. So his owner, the 2nd Marquess of Rockingham, might have been expected to show him mounted by a jubilant jockey. The canvas is tall enough to accommodate a figure on the horse with ease, and the surprising amount of bare space above *Whistlejacket* indicates that a rider was once planned.

But then Rockingham, who commissioned Stubbs to execute this colossal homage to equine splendour, seems to have changed his mind. Horace Walpole, encountering the picture at Wentworth Woodhouse a decade after its completion, noted in his journal that "it was to have had a figure of George III, till Lord Rockingham went into opposition". Another contemporary, Orazio Humphrey, confirmed the story, adding that Rockingham originally "intended that the present King should have been painted by

1756, in the Lincolnshire hamlet of Horkeston, he started an arduous 18-month investigation into the anatomy of a horse. Helped only by his common-law wife, Mary Spencer, he dissected carcasses, drew them and made notes, arriving at an unrivalled structural knowledge of his chosen subject.

Not that Stubbs aimed at a dry, pedantic exactitude in his subsequent horse paintings. There is nothing cold or dogged about his handling of *Whistlejacket*. His brush is quickened by a sensuous, marvellous awareness of the animal's sheen and graceful, nervous strength. Minuscule flecks of dark pigment can be detected on the otherwise plain ground, testifying to Stubbs's excitement as he went about the awesome task of giving this racer heroic form. His capacity as an artist was stretched to the limits — further, perhaps, than he had previously thought possible. But the outcome testifies to his absolute painterly command.

disciplined, is full of freshness and attack, mirroring the vivacity of the horse. Veins stand out at the top of his hind leg, where it begins to swell into the mighty musculature of his haunch. Stubbs's handling of the glossy skin reveals in its velvet-like glow. But plumpness cannot be detected among the expanses of sumptuous horseflesh. Although the well-fed health of *Whistlejacket*'s body bears witness to the care lavished upon him, he is in no danger of lapsing into cosseted indolence. The animal looks supremely alert, and Stubbs does full justice to the energy *Whistlejacket* exudes. It erupts in his thick mane, twisting and coiling down from his head in exuberant tresses. Then, after the mane disappears as his spine arches towards the hind-quarters, a spectacular tail spurts out like a frothy emission.

Whistlejacket was even more renowned for his handsomeness than for his speed on the racecourse. The adoration he received from admirers might have been enough

to make him unbearably vain. But no complacency affects this animal. By jettisoning all the paraphernalia that would have surrounded *Whistlejacket* at Rockingham's stables, Stubbs emancipates him from cloying tameness. The horse is free, in this spartan void, to reassert his wild spirit.

His fieriness was not simply a fantasy projected on to the steed by Stubbs. Despite the amount of training *Whistlejacket* received, he remained in his keepers' eyes "remarkably unmanageable". He even attempted to destroy the painting just before its completion. According to Humphrey, Stubbs was working in the open air and giving the picture its final touches. He had taken the canvas off the easel and, "to view the effect of it, propped the painting against a wall". A stableboy was performing his customary task of leading *Whistlejacket* back and forth to the front of Stubbs. But the horse suddenly noticed this uncannily

lifelike image for the first time. Disconcerted, he began to "stare and look wildly at the picture, endeavouring to get at it, to fight and to kick it". The horse was so threatening that Stubbs helped the stableboy to subdue him, pummeling *Whistlejacket* with his palette and Mahl stick until the animal became calm again.

Nobody should underestimate the power of this formidable, flaring creature. Stubbs is enough of a Classicist to place *Whistlejacket* in severe, frieze-like relief. But alongside this emphasis on order and scientifically informed scrutiny, there is an open admission of the animal's capacity for violence. In this respect the painting looks forward to the advent of the Romantic era as well, acknowledging the horse's darker and more turbulent impulses, rather than pretending that they do not exist.

AROUND THE GALLERIES

Patrick Proktor is controversial as an artist only by virtue of being amazingly uncontroversial. Somehow it seems improper for a painter of his generation to be so totally approachable, to produce work which could qualify (without a sneer) as "charming", "elegant", even "pretty". Now coming up to 62, he first made a splash in the New Generation 1964 show at the Whitechapel Art Gallery. Even then his art was unselfconsciously illustrative, but given its bright colours and its pop-icon subject-matter it could pass muster as a branch of Pop Art. Since then he has become if anything even more conservative, giving rise to a faint feeling that Proktor began as a "serious" painter and has somehow backslid since. But he has never made great claims for himself. He has just gone on applying his observant eye impeccably to places and people. If that is not a sign of seriousness, what is?

Redfern Gallery, 20 Cork Street, W1 (0171-734 1732). Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-1pm, until Jan 15

WE TEND to make a lot of fuss about the importance of encouraging young artists. But perhaps more in need of encouragement are those who have gone on steadily working and developing into middle age, without benefit of novelty and newsworthiness. Take Martin Fuller, now coming up to 55. He made a big splash in the Sixties, with his personal brand of free and slightly lurid Expressionism and his faintly laudable imagery of clubs and bars and nude confrontations. But he has had only one London exhibition in the past 20 years. True, he has shown in Düsseldorf, Belfast, Dublin and Paris, not to mention Sante Fe, where he has been artist in residence. But his new show at the KDK gallery shows that while Fuller's imagery remains much the same, specific backgrounds have given way to cosmic generalities. The effect is brilliant and quite confrontational.

KDK, 324 Portobello Road, W10 (0171-460 4355). Tue-Sat 10.30am-6pm, until Jan 17

REGULARS will be now be thoroughly tired of the plaudits heaped every year on the head of Chris Beetles for his annual *Illustrators* show, devoted to the British art of illustration from 1800 right up to date. But the sheer overall quality of these drawings and watercolours year after year is quite amazing. This year a special feature is made of the heyday of Radio Times illustration.

Chris Beetles, 9 & 10 Ryder Street, SW1 (0171-839 7551). Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm, until Jan 23

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

CLASSICAL CHOICE

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

BRAHMS'S PIANO PIECES, Op 116-119
Reviewed by Stephen Plaistow



EVERYTHING Brahms produced in the last six years of his life seems to have been a labour of love. The four collections of pieces numbered consecutively from Opus 116 have the ripeness of autumn, but also the air of being gleanings from a final harvest, as though he wanted to set down last thoughts about writing for the piano.

The music may be predominantly melancholy, but in the Seven Fantasies (Op 116) there are animated caprices as well as pensive monologues, and pianists who tackle all 20 pieces have also to meet the challenge of the concluding Rhapsody in E flat (Op 119 No 4), where Brahms adopts a more public manner and revisits the source of his youthful fire.

Until quite recently it was the exception rather than the rule to perform the pieces in complete sets. Imogen Cooper's acute characterisation of the Fantasies (Op 116) as a cycle conveys how much inspiration Brahms continued to draw from the example of Schumann (Ottavo OTRC 39027).

On another single CD Emil Gilels, equally imaginative, shows what vividness is to be gained when the characters of the slower numbers are clearly differentiated (DG 435 588-2, mid-price).

An early biographer who

heard Brahms in some of these compositions said that he played "as if to himself" and that his touch was "magically fragrant, sonful and rich in light and shade". This description would fit Wilhelm Kempff, in the Six Pieces (Op 118) he holds the detail and the overview in balance and goes to the heart of the matter with unerring feeling for the understated rhetoric of the music needs (DG 437 249-2, mid-price). Kempff is without peer in Op 118, and although his recordings go back to 1963, this disc is unsurpassed as a single CD comprising all the late pieces.

On a double album compiled from more recent recordings, Stephen Kovacevich is exceptional in the *Intermezzo* (Op 117 and 119) and more consistent in achievement overall.

Kovacevich is one of the few players today who excel in the pieces as much as the concertos, acute in his perceptions of Brahms's many aspects, from the heroic to the private, and with the ability to translate all of them into precisely characterised sound (Phillips 442 589-2, mid-price, 2 CDs, £14.99).

To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to: FREEPOST, SCO661, Fortes, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk; Next Saturday on Radio 3 (Plan): Bizet's *Carmen*

Sketchy authority

Despite the fact that through the late 1950s and 1960s Roger Hilton was considered one of the most brilliant painters of his generation in Britain, his work virtually disappeared from view after his death in Cornwall in 1975.

The neglect ended only with a retrospective at the Hayward Gallery in 1993, and now the Tate Gallery St Ives has combined a closer look at his work with an exploration of European abstraction; first in terms of the art of the 1930s (Winifred Nicolson's haunting painting *Moonlight and Lamplight* or Naum Gabo's Constructivist acrylic and brass *Monument for an Airport*) and secondly of Hilton's contemporaries, Terry Frost, Sandra Blow and Patrick Heron among them.

Hilton's visits to the Continent from 1931 onwards, when he went to Paris to study, put him in touch with the Abstract Expressionist CoBRA group, the Dutch artist Constant Nieuwenhuys and the works of Mondrian in the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam. In sympathy with the first two, Hilton reacted against Mondrian's rigidity of form, although not his simplicity of expression. To Hilton, as to the CoBRA artists, it did not seem incongruous that there could be a variation on abstraction that took its inspiration from the human figure and not from still life. In his view, "Abstraction in itself is nothing. It is only a step towards a new sort of figuration, one which is more true."

As this exhibition shows, Hilton's non-abstract drawings are all of animate rather than inanimate objects: figures, animals and birds. Even when Hilton opts for abstraction, as he did for most of the 1950s, the images still have a pulse, they still

proportionately large. Yet these women have been observed with too much detachment to be called sensuous.

Where women were concerned, Hilton was a chauvinist. He liked their company but he could also be viciously unkind. A whiff of cruelty can be detected in the art: two sketches made in the 1960s of women seen from behind, bending over, would be pornographic if they were not so abruptly outlined.

The canvas *Blue Newlyn* of 1958, roughly a square metre in size, is filled with a block of turquoise balanced on a boat-shaped support of cobalt blue. A meteoric line of blue sweeps across the turquoise, while splatters of cobalt to either side indicate the speed with which Hilton attacked his paintings. The colouring and the solidity of forms nevertheless make this one of the most satisfying and tranquil paintings. It is atypical. Elsewhere the impression is of a movement towards something else: of paintings that are animated but incomplete.

The enduring appeal of Hilton's paintings lies in the values he himself worked for in them: "Dynamic and strongly contrasted colours and a sensation of vitality." A series of abstract paintings from the late 1950s and early 1960s broadcasts his delight in pure colour. Maroon and bright red; black and white; ochre and yellow are applied with a scribbled or smoothly blocked freedom. Areas of canvas are left completely blank, either in haste or a delight in surface texture, and there is a furious determination to counter preciosity, formalism and minimalism with romantic passion.

Roger Hilton is at the Tate St Ives (01736 796543) until Apr 26



Peacock, from the prewar years of non-abstraction

MOVING into their second quarter-century, those indispensable pillars of British musical life, the Chilingirian Quartet, gave a typically adventurous programme at the Wigmore Hall on Saturday night. It opened with the String Quartet in F of Carl Nielsen, the fourth of the Dane's published works in the medium (1919), though it started life 13 years earlier under the name *Piacentolizza*.

It is a curious work, not least from Nielsen, whose symphonic rigour leads one to expect something more concentrated. If the primary material is inclined to wander, the composer seems anxious to make amends by introducing fugato imitation soon after. The Chilingirians did well to make sense out of all this, and went on to address the religious nature of the Adagio and the long-breathed lyricism of the finale with compelling results.

The pianist Leon McCawley joined them for Mozart's Piano Quartet in E flat, demonstrating the strength of the relationship which will be continued in the coming year. Particularly happy was the sense of communion in the Larghetto, where McCawley's introspective cantabile matched the sensuality of the string playing to perfection. In the final Allegretto, keyboard and strings engaged in an imaginative variety of responses to the perky rondo material. Brilliant passage-work on the piano dissolved self-effacingly into background figuration, allowing civilised dialogue precedence over sheer virtuosity.

The challenge in Beethoven's String Quartet in A minor, Op 132, is somewhat different. If the wilfully introverted musical expression is not to seem a self-obsessed ramble, the players have to convince the listener that every phrase has its place in the overall scheme of things. The Chilingirians managed to con-

Happy talking time

CONCERT
Chilingirian Quartet/McCawley
Wigmore Hall

vince me, not least in the central *Molto Adagio* — the song of thanksgiving — where

infinity-contemplating raptness was contrasted with rhythmic bounce and vibrant trilling at the indication "feeling of new power".

The trio of the previous movement had conjured an almost otherworldly atmosphere, first with Levon Chilingirian's drone effect on first violin, then with Asdis Valdmarasdottir weaving her way mysteriously through the texture on viola. The finale began with a powerful surge, marked by Philip De Groote's cello and punctuated by the off-beat accents of the inner parts, with the lead violin soaring up and away.

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LAW

GOODBYE GOOD TIMES 35 SOCIETY FAILINGS 35

Frances Gibb talks to Heather Hallett, QC, the first woman to chair the Bar

Working mum reaches the top

She is blonde and bubbly — and definitely not a 'fat cat.' So if anyone can tackle the Bar's public image (male-dominated, old-fashioned and public school) it is Heather Hallett, QC, who took over on January 1 as the first woman chairman in its history. And with the Bar facing the loss of part of its civil legal aid work, affecting that change of image is top of her agenda. "One of my priorities is to change the public image of the Bar," she says. "Until we manage to do that, we will always be attacked for anything we say as coming from self-interest."



Hallett, QC, her priority is to change the "fat cat" image of the legal profession

A mother of two sons and married to another QC, she is also the first working mother to assume the helm of the Bar Council, the professional body for 16,000 barristers in England and Wales (8,000 in private practice and the rest employed in government, commerce or industry). Both she and her husband Nigel Wilkinson have had to juggle briefs with school plays. Their sons are now 15 and 17. But the decision to take on the Bar chairmanship in the year the boys do GCSEs and A-levels — "a double whammy" — was a family one. "They were entitled to be consulted," she says.

The couple's jobs have meant that they could "never guarantee to make sports day or the carol service and," she admits, "I'm sure that there were times when they suffered, but I hope it was only short-term. They have turned out to be very understanding." It is still not easy for women to reach the top of the Bar. Now comprising nearly half the annual entrants, they make up only a small proportion of the senior ranks. "When women are not in court, they want to be at home, even working from home," she says. "They don't want to go to the Saturday conferences and stay late for Bar political meetings and other things that barristers do to get up the ladder, so they may miss out."

A loan should cover the training course

She managed to enter the profession with a local authority discretionary grant — a source of funding now almost dried up, and by doing odd jobs, lecturing or working in shops. When she applied for a scholarship, she was told: "You're a woman, how do we know you will stay? When she returned a year later after proving herself as they suggested, they told her she no longer needed a scholarship." She initially handled all kinds of work but was shunted into the "female" areas of divorce and crime. After a three-month stint of maternity leave for each of her children she realised she had to specialise. "I have loved doing criminal work, but would have liked the choice, which in those days was not really there."

Her worst cases, she says, have been those in which she has acted for the defence in child sexual abuse trials, and the "shattering" experience of cross-examining young children. "It's a nightmare and not a person in the world would not go home feeling desperate about what I had to do. If ever I am accused of being a fat cat, I would like people to come along and see the job we do sometimes."

That ability for barristers to prosecute and defend is, she believes, vital to the strength of the law, and she will oppose any moves to allow Crown Prosecution Service lawyers into the Crown Court. Similarly, she favours the status quo when it comes to wigs. She believes that in the criminal courts, they help to give authority to the proceedings, especially with the decline in the importance of the oath, and that they also help to depersonalise the advocate's role. But on other fronts, she believes the Bar could do more to modernise its working practices to accommodate women, and men for that matter, rearing families. The regulations affecting judicial pensions, too, she believes, are a discouragement to women going on the bench. "To qualify for full pension, judges must now serve 20 years, which means appointment at 45 to retire at 65, or 50 at 70."

A woman's place is in the courtroom

Ms Vaughan, 71, says: "Women complain nowadays about not having enough role models and so on, but it was far harder in those days and I don't think my mother has really had the recognition she deserved." The total number of women practising has risen to some 23,700, or nearly 33 per cent of the profession; and the numbers will rise because women now make up more than half of the new entrants. Elizabeth Cruickshank, chairman of the Association of Women Solicitors, says: "It's easy to forget just how much women have achieved in a very short space of time. As late as 1957, fewer than 2 per cent of practising solicitors were women." Women now have parity in numbers, at least on entry. But there is still one more battle to be won. A recent survey by the Law Society found that at all levels of the profession, women earned significantly less than their male counterparts.

Boxing's King hopes for another knockout

Most lawyers don't know about the doctrine of vindictive prosecution. It occurs in a criminal case when the accused wins a retrial and the prosecutor obtains a stiffer punishment on the same facts, apparently as a penalty for the defendant's exercising his legal rights. Yet vindictiveness has no place in a prosecutorial or sentencing decision. If found to exist, it may warrant sentence reduction or even dismissal of the charges, because vindictiveness has been held to violate constitutional guarantees of due process in law.



JAMES D. ZIRIN

It had to be a karmic event that this obscure doctrine would bump up with the greatest human oddity on the boxing landscape, the hot-wired promoter Don King. Many identify King with the Mike Tyson-Evander Holyfield fiasco or his out-of-a-horror-movie hairdo. Few remember that he was indicted in 1994 for nine violations of a federal wire fraud statute in connection with an alleged phony insurance claim for \$750,000 against a Lloyd's syndicate made by his wholly owned corporation, Don King Productions, Inc. The Lloyd's policy covered the business against losses if a scheduled fight between Julio César Chavez and Harold Brazier were cancelled because one of the fighters failed to appear. Sure enough, Chavez was injured while sparring before the fight. The fight was postponed and King Productions billed Lloyd's for more than \$670,000. So far, so kosher. But in support of the claim, there was submitted to Lloyd's a purported contract between Chavez and King, which contained a rider, typed at the bottom of the first page, that read: "\$350,000.00 for maintenance non-refundable training expenses hereby acknowledged and received by Julio César Chavez" (my emphasis). The King Productions accountant, one Joseph Maffia (sic), says that King asked him to add these words after the injury in order to persuade Lloyd's that he had paid Chavez \$350,000 in non-refundable money, for which he was entitled to reimbursement under the policy. The US Government's evidence was that the payment by King to Chavez was considered by both to be a loan, and was thus refundable. Lloyd's filed a civil suit against King for \$350,000, plus expenses, claiming that the insurance claim had been a scam. King defended the criminal case on the basis that the coverage under the policy was such that no fraud occurred, that he had no personal involvement in the claim's preparation, and that the fault lay with others in his organisation who had wrongly added a "deceptive" rider to the contract without his authorisation. This fascinating scenario went to the jury almost two months after trial began. After three days of deliberation, the jury reported that it was "irretrievably deadlocked" — a victory for any defendant. Seizing on this and the imminent departure of a juror who had previously announced prearranged plans to leave the country, King moved for a mistrial, the legal equivalent of a draw with a rematch if the prosecutor wants one. The prosecutor initially opposed the mistrial and instead asked the judge for a "dynamite" charge — an instruction given to the jury in such cases that urges "hold-outs" to listen carefully to the views of the majority and to reassess their positions, although they are at the same time told not to give up conclusions conscientiously arrived at.

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Source: MMS September 1997

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PRIVATE PRACTICE

Martin Mears examines the self-regulating society charged with keeping its eye on solicitors

Red Hot Litigators rule?

Few solicitors take much interest in the Law Society, their professional body, last year only 30 per cent of them bothered to vote for their President. Elections for Law Society council seats are usually uncontested. From time to time a seat falls vacant and nobody can be found to occupy it.

And yet the Law Society plays far more than a peripheral role in the life of all solicitors. It assesses their practising certificate fee. It forces them to arrange their professional negligence insurance through its own inflexible mutual fund. It disciplines them through its subsidiary, the Office for the Supervision of Solicitors, a body not renowned for its speed and efficiency.

One must assume that the solicitor who accepts these burdens imagines that he is getting something for his money. But what? His reply, no doubt, would be that the learned profession of which he is a member needs a regulator to maintain its standards and better the Law Society than a government-appointed quango.

The Law Society's professional watchdog functions are exercised through its Standards and Guidance Committee. During my presidency of the Law Society, I raised two matters of professional conduct with this committee. They arose from very disparate sources. The first was the affair of the Gateshead list. Here a commercial enterprise (at Gateshead) accumulated names of accident victims which it then sold to firms of personal injury lawyers. This revelation caused great huffing and puffing in the press and I received indignant complaints both from solicitors and members of the public.

The other complaint came to me from the Lord Taylor of Gosforth, then Lord Chief Justice. He was worried about the increasing tendency (as he perceived it) of solicitors to make public statements to the media in which they identified themselves with their clients' position. In Lord Taylor's view, this detracted from their status as officers of the court whose business was to present a case and not, American-style, to express a personal judgment on whether it was well founded. The S & G Committee rejected both these complaints. I am not concerned here to argue whether the committee's view was right or wrong. What is noteworthy



Lord Taylor of Gosforth, Margaret Thatcher and Wild Bill Hickok. Martin Mears explains their part in the Law Society story

is that in one instance its opinion as to what was appropriate professional conduct was less rigorous than that of the general public. In the other, it was less rigorous than that of the Lord Chief Justice.

It was, of course, a major tenet of Thatcherism that the professions were little better than middle-class trade unions, conspiracies for the maintenance of archaic privileges and restrictive practices. Such attitudes found expression in the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 which described lawyers as mere "providers of legal services".

The Law Society put up little resistance to the new orthodoxy. The restrictions on advertising and

touting were abolished. Conditional fees (formerly regarded as a deplorable American device to foment litigation) were approved. "Deregulation" became the buzzword, although mutual regulation had previously been considered a prime distinguishing feature of a profession.

The latest example of deregulation once again emanates from the S & G Committee. It concerns the restriction on the names law firms can call themselves. Under the existing rules, firms can use only the names of present or former principals or one approved by the Law Society.

On the committee's recommen-

dation, the Law Society's council has now voted for "liberalisation". A firm will be able to use any name which is not misleading or which does not "bring the profession into disrepute".

The new rule is to be interpreted in the light of notes annexed to it. These tell solicitors that they can use "a non-conventional name, for example, 'Legal Clinic' or 'a firm name that includes the name of a fictional or historic character such as 'Wild Bill Hickok Equine Law Consultancy' or an entirely invented name.

If "Wild Bill Hickok" is given as an example of an acceptable name, it is not easy to think of a title that

would be thought objectionable. "Red Hot Litigators Inc." "The Get U a Divorce Bunch"? Are these names calculated to raise the status of the profession in the eyes of the public?

Looking at the latest example of "deregulation" and recalling the S & G Committee's approval of the Gateshead list and its rebuff to the Lord Chief Justice, the average practitioner might be forgiven for wondering whether professional standards would not, after all, be safer in the hands of a government quango.

The author is a former President of the Law Society and editor of the society's Client Care Guide.

Brief encounter with the future

Fat cat lawyers, says Edward Fennell, may discover the good times are over

Christmas comes but once a year — except, it seems, for lawyers, for whom every day is Christmas. Or so it would appear from the tidings of good cheer pouring from their PR machines. Lawyers are happy, clients are happy, all is well with the world.

But is it really? Lawyers are pivotal to the conduct of business but, in America at least, that does not mean their clients are content. During the past week, Daniel Mahoney, until recently the corporate counsel and manager of law firm partnering at DuPont, has been in London casting a cold eye over the City's firm. His view of the US scene is that clients are becoming exasperated by the unresponsiveness of lawyers to the demand for competitiveness that prevails elsewhere in the economy. Yet there were few signs, Mr Mahoney says, that the lawyers are introducing the improvements embraced by industry at large.



Law in the UK and US, unlike manufacturing, has not been much challenged by radical new ways of doing things nor by a range of alternative suppliers. So much work is done in the old, traditional way. Money may have been spent on information technology (IT) but it has not been used to its potential. What should be delivered as a "commodity" (ie, an off-the-shelf service) is endlessly cooked up as if for the first time.

Mr Mahoney says that lawyers must become real problem solvers if they are to justify their earnings. These are not new demands, and although many law firms claim to have done something about it, Mr Mahoney thinks there has been a lot of rhetoric but little action. Time, however, is running out. Mr Mahoney thinks clients are starting to

rebel against a system in which, as he puts it, "the client accepts all the risks of litigation and the law firm all the rewards".

So will there be an end to the smiling faces that beam out of the glossy legal magazines? Is there any alternative?

Mr Mahoney points out two big changes that could disrupt the comfort of today's fat-cat lawyers. The first is that some pioneers will really start to exploit IT's capabilities. Dr Richard Susskind of Masons has already predicted that the future of most legal services lies in technology.

The second change will unfold from the first. As IT comes to offer more solutions, so in-house lawyers, under pressure from their chief executives, will start to do more work for themselves. Unless law firms really do have exceptional expertise, their services will not be needed by corporate clients of any significant size.

The one concession Mr Mahoney makes to the status quo is in banking and international finance, where he acknowledges that a level of specialism and globalisation is required. As for globalisation in general, however, he doubts whether clients really do want the same law firm doing their work worldwide.

And that brings us to the great question hanging over the leading law firms. Just how far will the accountancy-based firms progress? The continuing row at Andersen Worldwide between management consultants and accountants suggests that they have a long way to go before they can offer credible world-beating legal services. Having a lot of lawyers as part of the ensemble will not make life easier. Indeed, we may see a return to the idea of good things coming in small packages.

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Postponing interviews
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IP/IT: Hants/Surrey
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Commercial Property: London
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RACING: VERSATILE IRISH TRAINER SEEKS VALUABLE LEOPARDSTOWN PRIZE

Walsh courts success in Ladbroke

By CHRIS McGRATH
IT HOPES to absorb Coral, so becoming a proper behemoth among bookmakers, and it funds the richest handicap hurdle in Europe at Leopardstown on Saturday.



Commanche Court, left, who won last season's Triumph Hurdle, has been well supported for the Ladbroke Hurdle

RICHARD EVANS
Nap: Maori Wisdom (1.00 Ludlow)
The well-regarded Maori Wisdom showed enough on his debut to suggest a bright future.

Racing Post, and covering the sport for Irish television. Ruby, one of four children, has meanwhile been nurtured into an outstanding young rider himself.

Cheltenham in March for the Champion Hurdle, but first he must confirm the impression he made winning his Ladbroke trial at Leopardstown's Christmas meeting.

The hit turning into the straight, but if he is upstides and has no traffic problems at that stage, I'm sure he'll come home well.

year's Gold Cup at Royal Ascot, while in the autumn he went on to win a second Middle Park Stakes (after Fard) with Hayil.

By many in racing. John Dunlop, for instance, said: "He was a great friend for many years, and I had the greatest respect for him. He had been in great pain, but he was a remarkably brave man. We will all miss him terribly."

RACING AHEAD
Robert Wright suggests the best value in the ante-post market

Table with columns for race names and odds. Includes 'Commanche Court' and 'Maori Wisdom'.

THE Ladbroke Hurdle holds obvious attractions for its sponsor. A large field going half-for-leather around a sharp track in a handicap is a recipe for trouble in running, and there are many such several hard-luck stories. Nonetheless, at this time of year, it provides welcome respite from the low quality all-weather racing.

THUNDERER

- 1.00 Village King
1.30 Hurricane Lamp
2.00 Among Islands

GOING: SOFT, HEAVY IN PLACES

Table of race results for 1.00 CIVILIAN MAIDEN HURDLE, listing runners and odds.

1.30 NEW YEAR NOVICES CHASE

Table of race results for 1.30 NEW YEAR NOVICES CHASE, listing runners and odds.

2.00 LEINTWARDINE SELLING HURDLE

Table of race results for 2.00 LEINTWARDINE SELLING HURDLE, listing runners and odds.

4.00 WIGMORE INTERMEDIATE OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE

Table of race results for 4.00 WIGMORE INTERMEDIATE OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE, listing runners and odds.

2.30 TENBURY HANDICAP CHASE

Table of race results for 2.30 TENBURY HANDICAP CHASE, listing runners and odds.

3.00 NIBLS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE

Table of race results for 3.00 NIBLS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE, listing runners and odds.

3.30 JANUARY NOVICES CHASE

Table of race results for 3.30 JANUARY NOVICES CHASE, listing runners and odds.

4.00 WIGMORE INTERMEDIATE OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE

Table of race results for 4.00 WIGMORE INTERMEDIATE OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE, listing runners and odds.

Lingfield is latest casualty

THE Lingfield fixture scheduled for tomorrow has become the latest victim of the adverse weather. The meeting was called off yesterday because of waterlogging.

LINGFIELD PARK

THUNDERER
12.45 No Grouching. 1.15 English Invader. 1.45 Ultra Beel. 2.15 Chalkpenny. 2.45 Otter's Odyssey. 3.15 Grooms Gold. 3.45 Fenzy Design.

12.45 W.W. BARRYDENNIS CO.UK HANDICAP

Table of race results for 12.45 W.W. BARRYDENNIS CO.UK HANDICAP, listing runners and odds.

1.15 HOO SELLING HURDLE

Table of race results for 1.15 HOO SELLING HURDLE, listing runners and odds.

1.45 RENOWN CLAIMING STAKES

Table of race results for 1.45 RENOWN CLAIMING STAKES, listing runners and odds.

YESTERDAY'S SOUTHWELL RESULTS

Table of race results for YESTERDAY'S SOUTHWELL RESULTS, listing runners and odds.

SQUASH
Little home comfort as Willstrop is beaten

By COLIN McQUILLAN
HOME hopes in the Commercial Union British Junior Open championships suffered an unexpected blow in the boys' semi-finals at Abbeydale Park, Sheffield, yesterday when James Willstrop, the British under-16 champion and No 2 seed, from Pontefract, was defeated 8-10, 9-5, 9-1, 9-2 by Gregory Gaultier, 15, from Aix-en-Provence.

In the semi-finals of the under-16 boys' championship already sewn up by a squad of talented Egyptians, from whom Yasser El Halaby and Eslam El Homosary emerged as the finalists yesterday, Willstrop's defeat followed that of George Webster, from Dorset, who lost 9-0, 9-1, 9-3 to Alberto Manso, the No 1 seed and champion, of Spain, to finish domestic interest in the under-16 category.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Table of today's fixtures for various sports including football, tennis, and squash.

RACELINE
0930 168+
LUDLOW 101 201
LINGFIELD 102 202
WALSLEY 120 220

HAYDOCK RETURN
LAST month's runaway Ascot winner, Paddy's Return, will complete his build-up to the Cheltenham Festival by running in the Totepremier Long Distance Hurdle at Haydock on January 24.

COURSE SPECIALISTS
TRAINERS: Win 12, Run 2, Place 12, Show 12, Total 36.
JOCKEYS: Win 12, Run 2, Place 12, Show 12, Total 36.

THE TIMES
SPORTS SERVICE
RUGBY UNION
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RUGBY UNION: WEATHER REPORT CLOUDS WOODWARD'S PLANS

Fixture snarl-up puts pressure on England

AS THE draw for the fifth round of the Telford's Bitter Cup was made yesterday, the knock-on effect of the postponements in the fourth round last weekend was beginning to be felt by individual clubs and also by England.

BY MARK SOUSTER

coach) wants to disrupt important club rugby." Despite intensive discussions, neither Bath nor London Scottish could agree another date and have asked the English Rugby Partnership (ERP) to adjudicate.

but forgot to ask Bedford, who are due to play at West Hartlepool in a league match the same day, and who are insisting that that game goes ahead.

Blackheath's plans of playing their tie against Saracens this evening were also washed away. They have now pencilled in next Wednesday, January 14, which clashes with England's first squad session of 1998 and the build up to the five nations' championship.

The fifth-round draw, made at Twickenham yesterday, which included the nine winners from the weekend plus the 14 clubs whose ties were postponed, by necessity had its share of caveats. Should Saracens ease past Blackheath, and Leicester, the holders, best Coventry, then the two first division heavyweights will meet at Vicarage Road.

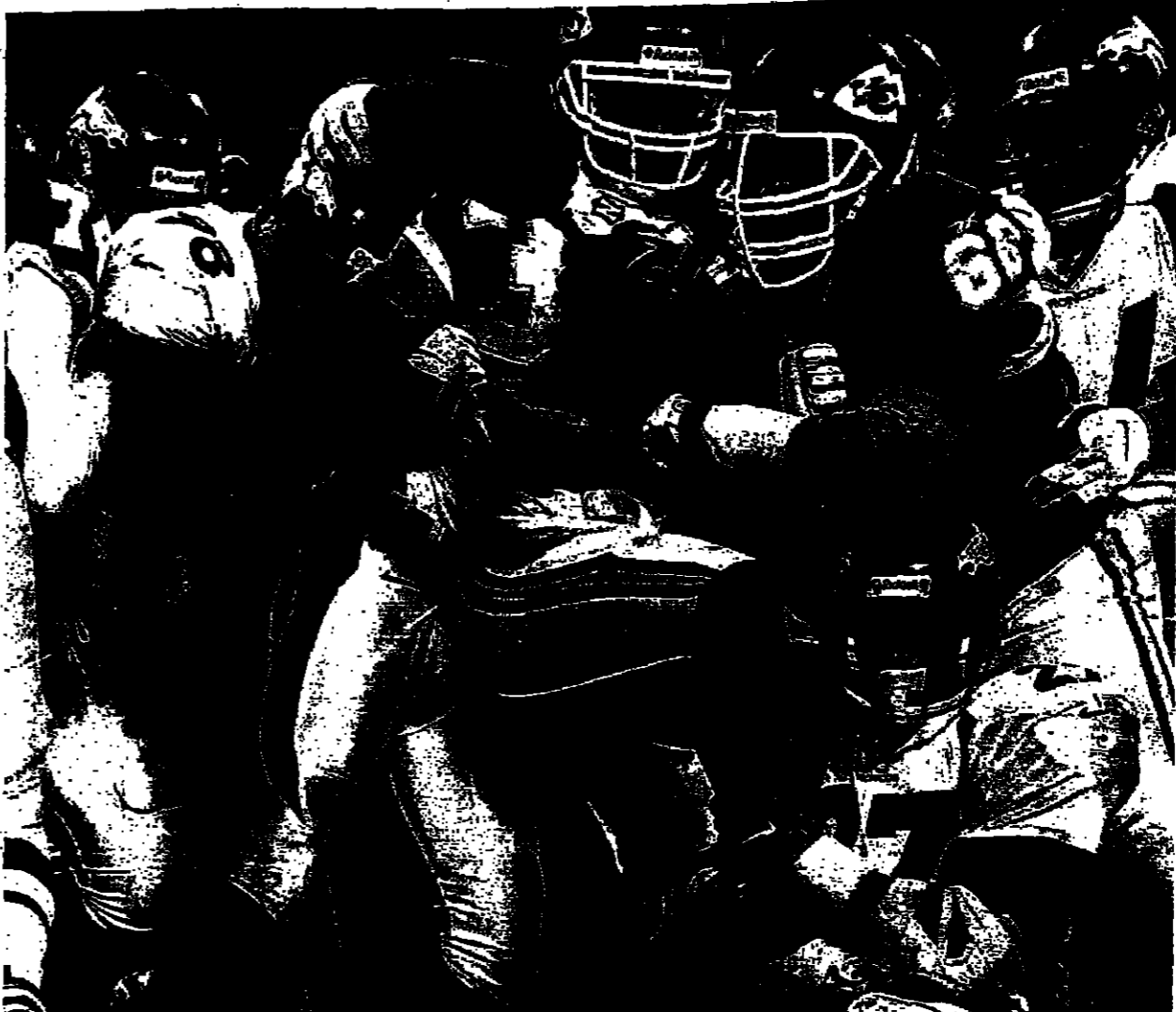
Table with 2 columns: Match, Date, Time. Includes re-arranged dates for outstanding fourth round ties and draw for the fifth round of the Telford's Bitter Cup.

Bristol hope ground sale will enable club to prosper

BRISTOL rugby club yesterday announced plans to sell and lease back its prime asset, The Memorial Ground, as part of a financial rescue package that should secure the club's future in the short term and enable it to compete on a more level playing-field in the professional era.

BY MARK SOUSTER
tioned by the club's parious position. "We are still looking for a major investor," Arthur Holmes, the chairman said.

Alan Davies, the club coach, said that he would look to strengthen the squad but would not pay exorbitant transfer fees. "We are in a position to pick and choose," Davies said.



Allen, the Kansas City Chiefs running back, attempts to break through the massed ranks of the Denver Broncos defense

Brave Broncos buck the trend

JOHN ELWAY, the talismanic quarterback of the Denver Broncos, has made it his career speciality to produce fourth-quarter comebacks. No one does it quite like him, but it is perhaps a measure of the changes that have swept over the Broncos that they could not be asked for a better draw.

Steelers in Pittsburgh, it will give Elway what is likely to be his last chance to win the Super Bowl after a host of near-misses in his long career in American football.

seconds of the game, it still seemed that there was time for the Chiefs to salvage the match. With 19 seconds left and no time outs remaining to stop the clock, their quarterback, Elvis Grbac, tried to find his receiver, Lake Dawson, in the end zone for a touchdown, but the pass was blocked.

end is likely to be crushed in the Super Bowl, in San Diego on January 25, by the winner of the National Football Conference championship game between the San Francisco 49ers and the Green Bay Packers, probably the strongest teams in the National Football League this season.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE advertisement with logo and decorative elements.

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT
Accompanying the finals of the 1997 Venice Cup and Bermuda Bowl was an event called the Transnational Teams. Chris Convery, who played for South Africa in the 1995 Bermuda Bowl, was the declarer on this hand from the event.

Bridge hand diagram showing Dealer South, Love all, IMPs, and a card layout with suits and ranks.

North's double of West's overall was 'negative', showing a few high cards but no good suit. When West led the king of spades and East played the right, Convery could see that the defence would take a spade ruff when they got in with the ace of hearts.

KEENE on CHESS advertisement with logo and decorative elements.

Epic victory
Today I give Karpov's epic win from round one against Anand. Karpov's energy at the start of the game was noteworthy, culminating in his shocking queen sacrifice on move 31. After three games the score is 1½-1½.

Chess analysis including a diagram of a chessboard, piece lists, and commentary on the game between Karpov and Anand.

Wright's playing plans go west

PETER WRIGHT, the Scotland and British Isles prop forward, has been told by the Scottish Rugby Union (SRU) that he cannot play for his club side, West of Scotland, and the district side, Borders Reivers, next season.

BY KEVIN FERRIE
Wright said: "They [the SRU] has told me I must play for the Borders next season and that I must join a club in the district. It is possible that he will rejoin his former club, Melrose."

But Brian Edwards, the coach aiming this season to become the first man to guide two different clubs to the national title, after winning it with Stirling County in 1995, was more scathing. "I'm bitterly disappointed to lose Peter and it's curious that a man who comes from Edinburgh and plays his rugby in Glasgow should now be told he's a dyed-in-the-wool Borderer," he said.

RUGBY LEAGUE: WARRIORS EXPECTED TO SIGN FREE-SCORING AUSTRALIA WING

Sailor prepares to dock at Wigan

WENDELL SAILOR, the formidable Australia wing, is expected to sign for Wigan Warriors for the 1999 season after meeting club officials yesterday. A news conference is scheduled for Central Park today, at which it is expected that Wigan will announce what represents the biggest coup since Mal Meninga.

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE
to Manchester yesterday for contract negotiations. His signing would be in the best tradition of Wigan wings, such as Martin Offiah, Billy Boston and Valiga Tuigamala, who later played centre.

with Waspas rugby union club. Warrington Wolves have signed Brendon Tutua, the New Zealand loose forward, and Jason Rouch, a wing, from Castleford Tigers.

with Waspas rugby union club. Warrington Wolves have signed Brendon Tutua, the New Zealand loose forward, and Jason Rouch, a wing, from Castleford Tigers.



Sailor bound for Wigan

Answers to the bridge and chess puzzles, including solutions for PANG, PARSEVAL, PROVOLONE, and RAMPSMAN.

Chess puzzle solution by Raymond Keene, including a diagram of a chessboard and the final position.

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SNOW REPORTS

GOLF

Montgomerie gets major boost to his bank balance

By JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

IT MUST have been nice for Colin Montgomerie to pocket \$1 million on Sunday evening from his efforts in the Arizona desert, but that may only be the half of it. If the reward for becoming the Andersen Consulting world champion is to give Montgomerie's career the impetus for him to win a major championship, then the amount of money he received will be immaterial.

Yesterday, while his mother-in-law returned to Great Britain with her two children, Montgomerie and Elmore, his wife, flew to Barbados for a well-deserved break. While Montgomerie walks on the beaches of the West Indian island, he can reflect on the considerable boost he has given to his career, and to European golf, in the past few months.

Montgomerie's victory takes him to seventh in the list of career money-winners in golf, having won \$8.87 million (about £5.4 million). The players ahead of him are Greg Norman (\$12.8m), Jumbo Ozaki (\$10.6m), Bernhard Langer (\$10.3m), Fred Couples (\$10.0m), Nick Faldo (\$9.8m), Nick Price (\$9.6m).

Picture the scene in Europe, starting in 1993. Montgomerie, with his elegant swing which has changed so little down the years, is able to win on his home continent with something approaching ease. Year after year he captures the European order of merit, despite playing fewer events than most of his rivals. One year, Sam Torrance steps up to challenge him and it goes down to the last putt of the last event before Montgomerie triumphs. The next year it is Ian Woosnam's turn to challenge and Montgomerie repels that, too. Then Lee Westwood and Bernhard Langer lead the chase, but once again Montgomerie sees them off, too.

In the United States,

though, it is another matter. Montgomerie has been unable to win on that continent. It has become a matter of frustration for him, evident when he burst into tears after narrowly being beaten by Ernie Els at the US Open last year.

At 34 — he will be 35 in June — he could not silence the doubting Thomases who whispered behind his back that he did not have the mental equipment to win a major championship; nor, for that matter, the nagging voices that assailed his confidence.

It began to change late last year. After his fifth victory in the European order of merit, he then won the individual title in the World Cup in South Carolina in November. Now he has annexed this huge prize.

In a television interview recorded before Christmas, Montgomerie acknowledged his position as one of the best, if not the best, player never to have won a major championship. "Even if I do not win one, I am more than content with what I have done in golf already," he said, as if trying to lighten the pressure he undoubtedly feels.

A little of that pressure has been removed now that he has won convincingly in the US, beating Els and Davis Love III in successive matches and winning at a rate of \$20,000 per hole. Els and Love were two of the major championship winners of last season.

"To come here to America and beat two major champions of 1997, two players ranked ahead of me in the world and two players I very much respect, is a very good start to 1998," Montgomerie said. "I am not saying it is 'The Year of Monty', but to sit here on January 4 having won a million dollars is very satisfying."

At times, Montgomerie

seems to be a victim of his temperament, appearing to seek out distractions that other players ignore. He is, to use a phrase in common currency among his peers, a "rabbit ears". This remains one area in which he must improve.

It should also benefit Montgomerie in 1998 that he has decided to compete in the US the week before each of the three major championships there, rather than making a pell-mell dash across the Atlantic and arriving rather breathlessly at the start of the week of the event.

"Get out there sooner and get acclimatised," was a piece of advice given to him by Nick Faldo. The proof of this particular pudding was surely to be seen in Arizona. He flew there on December 28 and gave himself an unprecedented three days' practice.



Montgomerie's lucrative victory in the Arizona sands may prove to be worth more than mere dollars if it can inspire him

Davies tees off in effort to lift tour of Europe

LAURA DAVIES spoke of her fears for European women's golf yesterday and her attempt to rescue it.

Davies, the 34-year-old former world No.1, is hoping to stage her own tournament this season to boost a circuit that offers only seven tournaments despite the success of Europeans in women's golf.

"It's very disappointing," Davies said. "Can you imagine Wimbledon if ten of the world's top 20 were European — and British — mainly? The thing I worry about is the younger players. In ten years' time we're not going to have a team worthy of playing a Solheim Cup match against the Americans."

Davies, who was speaking on BBC Radio, criticised the marketing of the European tour, while admitting: "Obviously it's difficult with Annika Sorenstam, Lotta Neundorfer, Alison Nicholas and myself playing in America, but we're all prepared to come back."

"If I can get one tournament, then hopefully something can stem from that. I will try to twist a few arms to get a good field."

TAKE THE WEEK OFF. YOU'LL NEED ALL YOUR ENERGY FOR SATURDAY.

Seniors pipe in new tournament

By KEVIN FERRIE

DALMAHOY Hotel, on the outskirts of Edinburgh, will be the venue for a new tournament as the Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) continues to develop the European Seniors' Tour. Played on the hotel's famous East Course, the Scottish Seniors' Open championship, with prize-money of £150,000, will take place from September 3 to 6, the week after the PGA Seniors' championship at The Belfry.

Demonstrating the tour's rapidly improving status, Toramy Horton, three times the leading European seniors money-winner, picked up a record £18,427 last season, taking his seniors' winnings in seven seasons to a little less than £500,000 — more than double his earnings in 35 years on the European Tour.

However, in contrast, news of another leading Scottish event, until recently held at Dalmahoy, was not as promising yesterday. The Scottish PGA championship enjoyed its highest profile there in the early Nineties, live television

coverage and substantial sponsorship encouraging the country's leading European Tour players to take part.

Last year, though, it was originally scheduled for May, was later put back to August and finally took place in September. Consequently, the failure to identify a sponsor for the competition this year means that no date has been pencilled in.

"Like so many sports pursuing help from commerce and industry, professional golf is finding that sponsorship at the level required is becoming harder to find," Peter Lloyd, secretary of the PGA Scottish, released details of the 1998 Tattax Tour, which boasts a 15 per cent increase in total prize-money to £710,000. "I'm not lacking optimism, but there is a need to be realistic," he said.

The Scottish Seniors' Open will be sponsored by Golden Charter, the funeral planning company. Details of the Scottish Matchplay championship will be announced soon.

SNOW REPORTS

| | Depth (cm) | | Conditions | Runs to resort | Weather (5pm) | Last snow |
|--------------------------|------------|-----|---|----------------|---------------|-----------|
| | L | U | | | | |
| ANDORRA Soldeu | 25 | 70 | good varied (Generally good skiing) | fair | sun | -4 1/1 |
| AUSTRIA Kitzbühel | 5 | 85 | good packed | worn | cloud | -4 5/1 |
| | | | (Some good skiing to be found on the higher slopes) | | | |
| Obertauern | 95 | 160 | good varied | good | fine | -4 5/1 |
| | | | (Great skiing continues in the area) | | | |
| St Anton | 35 | 220 | good powder | good | sun | -15/1 |
| | | | (Excellent skiing after 15cm of fresh powder) | | | |
| FRANCE Alpe d'Huez | 80 | 160 | good crusty | fair | cloud | 1 4/1 |
| | | | (Good skiing can be found on most higher slopes) | | | |
| Flaine | 40 | 140 | good | crust | fair | -5 5/1 |
| | | | (19/28 lifts are open: skiing of fresh snow) | | | |
| Megeve | 5 | 25 | icy varied | closed | fair | 0 2/1 |
| | | | (Difficult skiing conditions on icy pistes) | | | |
| Meribel | 35 | 67 | icy packed | poor | cloud | -1 5/1 |
| | | | (All lifts are open but skiing tricky on icy snow) | | | |
| La Plagne | 80 | 160 | good packed | good | cloud | -85/1 |
| | | | (Good skiing continues on 10 cm fresh snow) | | | |
| ITALY Cervinia | 60 | 180 | good varied | good | fine | -1 4/1 |
| | | | (Very good skiing on nearly all pistes) | | | |
| Cortina | 25 | 110 | good varied | good | fine | 1 4/1 |
| | | | (Very good skiing overall on well-prepared pistes) | | | |
| Livigno | 70 | 130 | good varied | good | fine | -4 3/1 |
| | | | (Most pistes still in very good condition) | | | |
| SWITZERLAND C Montana | 10 | 150 | good crust | icy | fine | -2 4/1 |
| | | | (Dusting of new snow overnight) | | | |
| Klosters | 30 | 115 | good varied | good | fine | -1 3/1 |
| | | | (Excellent skiing in all areas) | | | |
| Mürren | 30 | 80 | fair crusty | icy | sun | 0 4/1 |
| | | | (Upper slopes skiing well, particularly Schilthorn) | | | |
| Zermatt | 20 | 100 | good varied | fair | fair | -3 3/1 |
| | | | (Generally good snow, particularly above 2,000m) | | | |

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial

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THE TIMES

Don't miss the new 100-page glossy magazine. Starting in The Times next Saturday.

Simon Wilde maps out spinner's targets after destruction of South Africa

Warne weighs in with record haul

WHETHER or not he had done the necessary mathematics, Shane Warne's statement yesterday that he intends to play international cricket for another three or four years appears to correspond neatly with the historical imperative.

Warne, perhaps wisely, remained publicly coy about such an eventuality, well knowing the vagaries of a game that offered him little but frustration in his early days with Victoria and Australia.

THE 300 CLUB

Table with 3 columns: Wickets, Player, Tests (Age). Lists players like Kapil Dev, R.J. Hadlee, I.T. Botham, etc.

ago with 434 victims to his name.

"When it gets close it will be something you'll set your sights on but at this stage I think it's miles away," was all Warne would say after bowling his country to victory over South Africa.

Warne's continuing fitness is almost certainly the key to where he finishes - statistically, at any rate - among the pantheon of great bowlers.

Warne has put on some extra poundage since he was in England last summer and has been instructed by Geoff Marsh, the Australia coach, to monitor his diet.



Warne, on his way to a personal milestone of 300 Test wickets, celebrates another dismissal as South Africa tumble to defeat in Sydney yesterday

He has found the perfect response by taking 17 wickets in two Tests against South Africa.

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because the wicket that made Warne only the second Australian, after Dennis Lillee, to take 300 Test wickets marked a tactical triumph against Jacques Kallis.

Warne is the thirteenth bowler to take 300 Test wickets and the fourth fastest behind Lillee (56 matches), Sir Richard Hadlee and Malcolm Marshall (both 61).

Warne has played 63. "I think my bowling has changed a lot," he said. "I think I know how to get batsmen out. When I first started I had no idea. I just ripped a leg-break or flipper. I didn't actually know when and why to bowl something."

Warne's relentless progress since his Test debut six years ago. His first 100 wickets took him 24 months, his second 100 another 23, his third 25. If he

sustains his rate of 50 wickets a year he should take his 435th wicket late in 2000.

Warne is the thirteenth bowler to take 300 Test wickets and the fourth fastest behind Lillee (56 matches), Sir Richard Hadlee and Malcolm Marshall (both 61).

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At 28 years 114 days, Warne is the second-youngest to reach the landmark, behind Kapil Dev (28 years 1 day).

Warne is the thirteenth bowler to take 300 Test wickets and the fourth fastest behind Lillee (56 matches), Sir Richard Hadlee and Malcolm Marshall (both 61).

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Willis (1983), Ian Botham (1984), Hadlee (1986), Kapil Dev and Imran Khan (both 1987), Marshall (1988), Courtney Walsh (1995), Wasim Akram (1996) and Curtly Ambrose (1997).

Warne could play 12 more Tests this year. After the South Africa series, Australia undertakes tours of India and Pakistan before staging a home series against England, his favourite opponents, against whom he has taken 85 wickets in 17 matches.

Warne's relentless progress since his Test debut six years ago. His first 100 wickets took him 24 months, his second 100 another 23, his third 25. If he

Lara's chances improved by changing mood

Alan Lee says worries about the captaincy, Ambrose's fitness and Walsh's future plague West Indies

England's tour may have stalled on the starting grid, but the part to be played on it by some powerful old adversaries is about to be decided.

Neither outcome is easy to forecast. Local opinion that Courtney Walsh would retain the captaincy has been shaken by news that at least one territory has transferred support to Brian Lara.

The captaincy saga is already long and involved. Before the series in Pakistan in November, the selectors nominated Lara but were overruled.

Steve Camacho, the board's chief executive, explained yesterday why the administrators must gather on an island where further rain once more ruled out net practice for England.

Each of the six territories has two voting delegates and the 14 votes are completed by the president and vice-president.

If Lara is elected - and there is plainly a mood for change - Walsh must decide if he wishes to continue playing. The possibility, however slight, that he will stand on his dignity and retire offers potential for what, at least to English eyes, would be an entirely fresh West Indies attack, lacking both its enduring stalwarts.

Ambrose, however, is unwilling to countenance this theory. He claims that the back injury which forced him to miss the final Test in Pakistan and the Champions Trophy has responded to rest and treatment, and he intends to demonstrate as much when the Leeward Islands start their season on Friday.

"I'll be back," promised the usually taciturn Ambrose. "I don't think I'm all done yet. There has been talk going around that I should call it a day but only Curtly Ambrose knows when to do that, nobody else."

Despite taking only one wicket in two Tests in Pakistan, Ambrose bristles at criticism. "I think all the talk is unfair. This is the only time I have had a poor series in so many years and all of a sudden I'm no good anymore."

A specialist's advice has reassured Ambrose. "He told me it was a muscle strain and nothing to worry about. After coming through a training camp held after Christmas, Ambrose is determined to convince the selectors that he can still puncture English confidence.

He said: "England are talking big. They figure they have a chance of beating the West Indies now, so that really motivates me. I'll be ready for them. I've played well against them over the years."

Perhaps predictably, Richardson also backed the dependable Walsh against Lara, who seldom did much to make his job easier. "I would like to see Walsh continue," he said. "I got a lot of blame for the team's poor performances when I was in charge and it's only now that people are realising it is not the captain that makes you win or lose, it is the material he has."

Richardson, now retired from Tests, blamed the decline of the West Indies team on poor administration. "Even before I became captain, I saw this coming," he claims. "Ten years ago, if we had had the vision, we would have restructured our cricket."



Atherton beats Hoolioake to a catch at beach cricket

South Africa crumble as spin bites

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

UTTERLY bemused by Shane Warne, South Africa could score only 113 in their second innings in the second Test in Sydney and went down to defeat by an innings and 21 runs yesterday.

South Africa, 134 behind on the first innings, found Warne nearly unplayable as the pitch provided the turn usually evident by the fourth day of matches on the ground.

Jacques Kallis, who was the man of the match as South Africa batted for eight hours, to save the Melbourne Test, proved Warne with his 300th wicket bowled between bat and pad with a top spinner

after making 45, the top score of an innings which lasted for 53 overs.

South Africa were unable to take the match into a final day, even though rain kept the players off the field for more than three hours after lunch.

They were already in desperate straits at 85 for seven when the rain came and the floodlights had to be used as Australia mopped up the last three wickets, those of Kallis, Pat Symcox, who was bowled by Paul Reffel for 38 and

Allan Donald, caught behind off Reffel for two just as rain started to fall again.

At the start of the day, Ian Healy and Glenn McGrath had stretched their last wicket partnership to 36 before Australia's innings closed at 421.

Reffel and McGrath then combined to get Australia off to a flyer as Gary Kirsten went without scoring and Adam Baicker fell for two.

Warne then took over and what had been a hard-fought contest over the first three days turned into a rout.

Warne, throwing his hands into the air in delight at the fall of each wicket, sent back Hansie Cronje, Herschelle Gibbs, Brian McMillan, Shaun Pollock and Dave Richardson as South Africa collapsed to 55 for seven before Kallis and Symcox added 41 to leave Warne fretting on 299 until the rain relented.

England A weakened by Hoolioake's injury

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

BEN HOLLIOAKE has been ruled out of England A's three-day match against Kenya in Ruwara today to weaken further their seam-bowling resources.

The Surrey all-rounder sustained a groin injury during the one-day victory on Sunday, limiting his contribution to two overs.

"Ben's tweaked his groin muscle so he's a little bit wary about it at the moment," Mike Gatting, the England A coach, said. "He will probably need to rest it. Because there is only a day between matches, we wouldn't want to risk him in case he aggravates it further."

With Chris Silverwood having been promoted to the senior tour party in the West Indies, England A have only two strike bowlers - Paul Hitchison, of Yorkshire, and James Ormrod, of Leicester-

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England A weakened by Hoolioake's injury

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

BEN HOLLIOAKE has been ruled out of England A's three-day match against Kenya in Ruwara today to weaken further their seam-bowling resources.

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BOXING

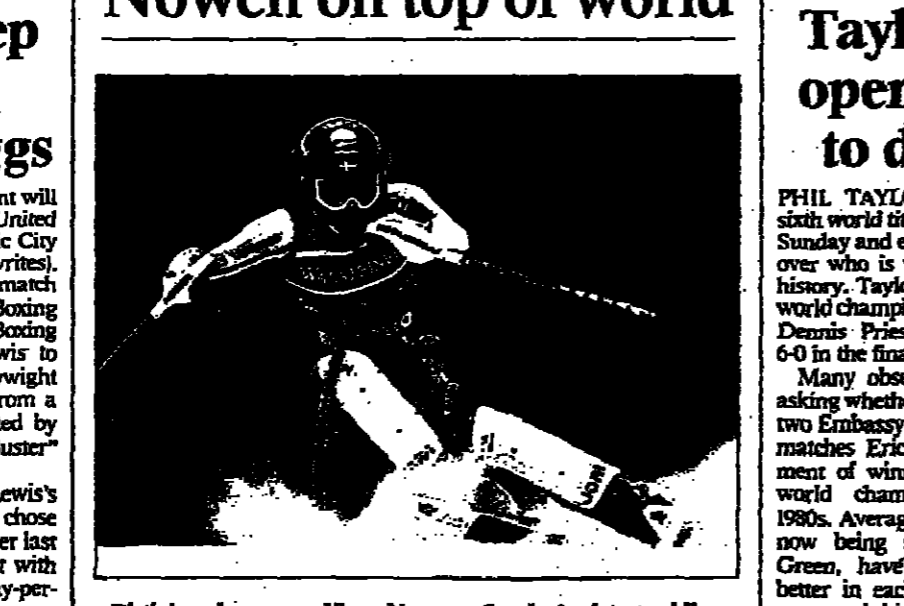
Lewis to keep in trim by meeting Briggs

LENNOX LEWIS'S next opponent will be Shannon Briggs, of the United States. They will meet in Atlantic City on March 28 (Srikumar Sen writes).

Briggs was not on the World Boxing Council (WBC) list of leading contenders but, after a request from Eliades, Jose Sulaiman, the president of the WBC, agreed to move Briggs into the top ten.

It could prove difficult to arrange a bout between Lewis and Holyfield before 1999, unless Holyfield agrees to take a big cut in the \$20 million prize he has been seeking. A third bout between Mike Tyson would give him the biggest purse of his career.

Nowen on top of world



Birthday honours: Ylva Nowen, Sweden's latest skiing phenomenon, who was 28 yesterday, attacks a gate as she celebrates in style by notching up her fourth consecutive World Cup slalom victory, in Bormio, Italy.

DARTS

Taylor win opens door to debate

PHIL TAYLOR won a record sixth world title at Purfleet late on Sunday and encouraged a debate over who is the finest player in history.

Many observers, though, are asking whether Taylor's record of two Embassy and four Skol titles matches Eric Bristow's achievement of winning five Embassy world championships in the 1980s.

At the Embassy, nine players - Paul Williams, Les Wallace, Ted Hankey, Mervyn King, Max Clark, Martin Adams, Robbie Willdows, Kevin Painter and Richie Burnett - have all bettered a 30 average in the opening 12 first-round matches.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Wright returns to lift England

FOOTBALL: Five players from the 1995 gold medal-winning women's squad, Sue Chandler, Sue Knight, Mandy Nicholls, Sam Wright and Michelle Leprot, have been included in the England indoor team that defends its title at the European indoor championship in Spain from January 23 to 25.

Tournament moved

CRICKET: An International Cricket Council fundraising tournament has been moved from Sharjah to Bangladesh. The limited-overs knockout tournament, featuring all nine Test-playing nations, will now be played in Dhaka from October 26 to November 4 because of sponsorship restrictions in Sharjah.

Corr on way out

SHOCKER: Karen Corr's hopes of becoming the first woman player to make an impact in the Embassy world championship looked forlorn when she trailed Phil Williams 7-1 after the first session of their eighth qualifying-round match at the Norbreck Castle Hotel. The winner is the first to ten frames.

ICE HOCKEY

Eagles soaring clear at top of Superleague

AYR Scottish Eagles strengthened their position at the top of the Superleague, beating Sheffield Steelers 5-4. It was their eighth successive win (Norman de Mesquita writes).

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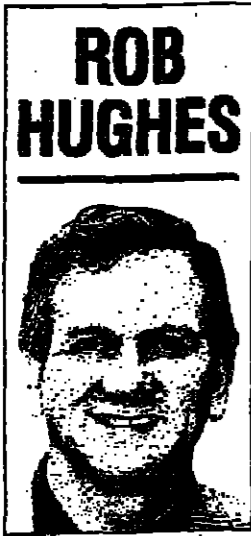
Corr on way out

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Emerson football boots advertisement with text 'Emerson boot after Middle', 'Macheliffe set Tottenham', and 'FOOTBALL FORECAST'.

Racist comment threatens to undermine hard-earned reputation

Why Motson must say sorry



Is John Motson losing his bishop's touch behind the microphone, or is the media at large making a storm in the proverbial teacup over his slip of the tongue on Sunday morning?



Motson's diligence and devotion to duty has made him a broadcasting legend

They do mind, very much. From every political hue, and from within the game itself, Motson was vilified.

mean that way at all, the words were taken out of context. I am just saying that if there are five or six black players in the team, and several of them are going for the ball, it can be difficult.

personally as a man who, privately and publicly, goes to almost any lengths to avoid upsetting anyone's feelings.

By looking for body movement, for position, for skill and touch and control. When a team such as AC Milan makes a virtue of building its nucleus on big, powerful, athletic, black players, the art of the commentator is stretched.

'Racism is no more acceptable because it is unintentional'

Churchill the Forties hero

Walden on Heroes BBC2, 7.30pm Speaking as A.J.F. Taylor used to do, straight to camera with no prompt or notes, Brian Walden presents a series on historical figures with the purpose of assessing their claim to be heroes.

Travelog Channel 4, 8.00pm

The new series of Travelog probably sets a record for travel programmes by having presenters who are all disabled. The point, presumably, is to demonstrate that having a disability is no bar to getting about.

Inside Story: House Traders BBC1, 9.30pm

Would you buy a used house from Nick Harrington? At the end of Carrie Britton's film you could still not be sure.

TELEVISION CHOICE



Walden discusses Churchill (BBC2, 7.30pm)

Harrington is the first to admit. Extrovert and immensely self-confident, he is the manager of a busy office in South London.

Kangaroo Palace Channel 4, 10.00pm

A mini-series from Australia charts the adventures of four young citizens of that country as they arrive in London in 1966.

RADIO CHOICE

Looking for Great Uncle Edward Radio 4, 10.00am (FM only)

Generations of people live in blissful ignorance of their own family's history because they only know what happened in the past through the unreliable memories of their grandmothers.

Night Waves Radio 3, 10.45pm

Anyone with an interest in the relationship between propaganda and art should have seen the edition of Night Waves, which marks the opening of the National Film Theatre in London.

SAILING: AMERICA'S CUP VETERAN GUIDES STRUGGLING TOSHIBA BACK INTO WHITBREAD RECKONING

Conner savours life in the fast lane

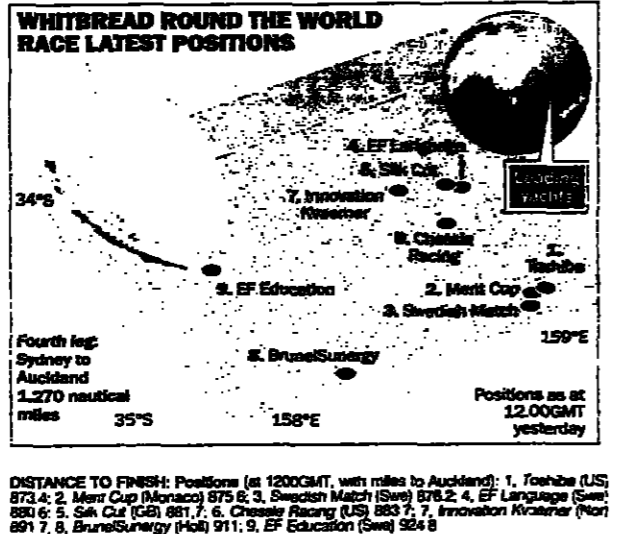
By EDWARD GORMAN SAILING CORRESPONDENT DENNIS CONNER, four times a winner of the America's Cup and probably the most famous racing yachtsman alive, is having a bit of fun on his own boat, Toshiba.

Although unfit, overweight and out of practice in terms of offshore sailing, Conner's presence as co-skipper alongside Paul Stanbridge, of Britain, will have given the Toshiba crew a lift.

line, he quickly had the boat back in the thick of the action in third place.

particularly tricky leg. "The fleet has split into two groups, north and south," he said.

Swedish Match, Merit Cup and Toshiba to the south and Innovation, Kvaerner, Silk Cut and EF Language in the north.



Later, in a second message, he seemed to be feeling the pressure. "We need to get some boats between Toshiba and the leaders to get back into the race for the first time people will be viewing the race back home and wondering when Toshiba is going to make her move but since I am on board, there is no second guessing going on. I better get back to work and see about making some heads."

At the end of the second day out of Sydney the fleet remained roughly in two groups, with BrunelSmery, particularly tricky leg. "The fleet has split into two groups, north and south," he said.

TENNIS

Ferreira serves up cup treat

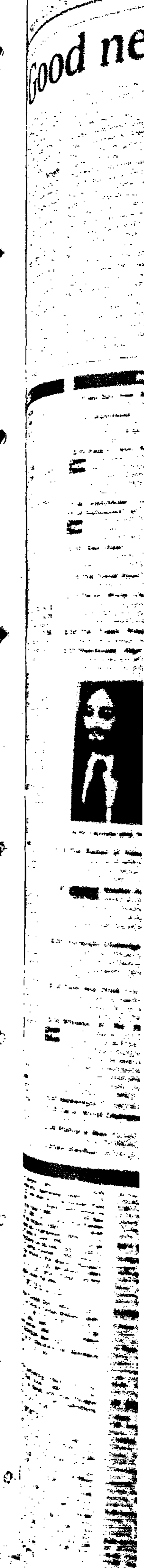
SOUTH Africa came from behind to defeat the United States, the champions, 2-1 in the Hopman Cup international mixed teams tennis tournament in Perth last night.

By OUR SPORTS STAFF Ferreira's win was important after Rubin had given the United States, unseeded despite being the title-holders, the lead by defeating the higher-ranked Coetzee 6-4, 6-3.

The International Tennis Federation yesterday named Pete Sampras, of the United States, and Martina Hingis, of Switzerland, as the world champions for 1997.

- Answers from page 38 PANG (b) Vocal imitation of a short, resonant sound, such as that produced by a drum, a horse's hoof, etc. A sound of this character. Echoic. Extra Pound. Classic Anthology. 1998. "Every man eager to pace the stations, 'Pang, pang' and Reia bells chink."

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP NEW TIMES CROSSWORD TITLES NOW AVAILABLE The Times Crossword (Book 142-99). The Times Crossword (Book 20 Cryptic 42-99). The Times Junior Crossword Book 3 is available to Times readers for just 64p (RRP 74p).

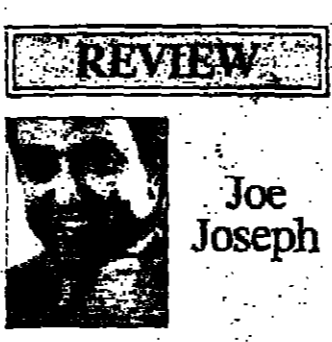


Good neighbours? Not the BBC and ITV

First the bad news: it turns out that there are sufficient numbers of people in Britain who can't break bread with their neighbours about what's going on in the world. The bad news is that the BBC and ITV, having planned a follow-up series to July's hugely successful (and hugely successful) *Neighbours From Hell*, was irked to discover that the BBC had hit on the same idea and was also planning a series on the very same subject. Only the BBC's series — can you believe the brazenness of that, just one channel down the road! — were starting theirs in January, several months before ITV's six-part series originally due on air. That is why last night's *Neighbours From Hell* was so successful. It was the only one forward, just as that ITV could poop right in the middle of the BBC's *Neighbours At War* commission-seeking documentary-maker or other somewhere in the world?

What sweet irony that a series about neighbour disputes should itself become a dispute between such close neighbours on television. Terrace, ITV, having planned a follow-up series to July's hugely successful (and hugely successful) *Neighbours From Hell*, was irked to discover that the BBC had hit on the same idea and was also planning a series on the very same subject. Only the BBC's series — can you believe the brazenness of that, just one channel down the road! — were starting theirs in January, several months before ITV's six-part series originally due on air. That is why last night's *Neighbours From Hell* was so successful. It was the only one forward, just as that ITV could poop right in the middle of the BBC's *Neighbours At War* commission-seeking documentary-maker or other somewhere in the world?

Both programmes provided advice and the numbers of telephone helplines to assume any voyeuristic guilt that we might have felt in watching, although ITV slightly betrayed its sympathetic, caring tone by filling its opening title sequence with windows being smashed — imagine a brick coming at you from within your TV screen — as if it was preparing to scare you to death. It was more like the prelude to a Stephen King horror movie. Yet the programme's first "Neighbour From Hell" involved the case of George Calvert, a war-disabled veteran of living in the Devon village of Down St Mary who is convinced that every time the church bells ring, the vibrations



Joe Joseph

cause his bowels to hemorrhage. Mr Calvert has charged the vicar and bellringers with criminal assault. "Trust me," he told us, "these people are hoologians... You'd think that they would be sympathetic and understanding and considerate, but they're none of those. They are practising Christianity, but really they are on the side of Satan." Maybe Mr Calvert's bowels did hemorrhage.

How could we possibly tell without the sort of gory medical inspection that would make even Stephen King queasy? But this case study left a bad taste in the mouth because it seemed to be sending out a coded message that Mr Calvert was slightly unhinged, perhaps by his war wounds; and under the guise of hearing him out, we were actually smirking at his nutty behavior.

Other examples, showing neighbours behaving thoughtlessly, or abusively, or violently were saddening and depressing without providing either enough real spice for channel-surfing voyeurs or enough counselling advice for those personally trapped in similar hells — even in the unlikely circumstance that people in such disputes would be turning in to discover a way out of their predicament. This programme was not solving their misery, so much as marketing it for a mass audience.

By focusing on just two cases — one petty but festering, the other violent and still flaring sporadically like a spluttering oil well — the BBC's *Neighbours At War* seemed to be trying harder: it steered clear of a rat-rat-tat, *Bearders' Club* approach to case histories, and even tagged a two-minute "education package" to the end of the film. Again, one of its two cases showed us someone who seemed unhinged but placid, and the other a family that seemed unhinged and very violent (and unrepentant about it).

Were I to be brought in as an independent arbitrator in the scheduling rivalry between these two series, I would probably side with the BBC family. But did either programme tell us much more than that the wester of sanity and civilisation is thin and that perhaps we can all be tipped over the edge when pushed hard enough?

Things can be bad even in Magaluf — however brightly the sun might be shining — if you find yourself with noisy louts in the next-door bedroom of your hotel. The improving but still tawdry Magaluf was Anthea Turner's first destination as the new presenter of *Wish You Were Here* (ITV). She has brought with her that speaking voice which is always on the crest of a conspiratorial laugh — as though she is about to tell you something side-splitting just as soon as she gets these tedious hotel details out of the way. But by the time she has reached the end of the sentence, discretion has persuaded her to keep the joke to herself. Carol Smilie went through the exact same method-training. Every line provokes a restrained snigger. If these two were neighbours, they could be having the most furious dispute over the garden fence and passers-by wouldn't have an inkling.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (48235)
 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (1) (25706)
 9.00 All Out of the Shop (584612)
 9.25 Real Roads A Stockport sitting room (581419)
 9.50 Kilo (1) (8978457)
 10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1) (8237419)
 10.55 The Really Useful Show (1) (7306977)
 11.35 What Would You Do? Phone-in hosted by Jane Garvey (4472780)
 12.00 News (1) regional news and weather (7007186)
 12.05pm Call My Bluff (1731728)
 12.35 Going for a Song (7986831)
 1.00 News (1) and weather (28986)
 1.30 Regional News (1) (81028631)
 1.40 The Weather Show (55307831)
 1.45 Neighbours (1) (8928925)
 2.10 Patrocall (1) (2412815)
 3.00 Small Talk (1) (7344)
 3.30 Spider (8164235) 3.35 Playdays (8937079) 3.55 Hubbub (8223322) 4.10 Chuddeewoo Citters (8425070) 4.35 The Really Wild Show: new series, starting in South Africa. (2747980) 5.00 Newsworld (1) (5536987) 5.10 The Norman Headmaster. New series with Tom Hiddleston (1) (5885038)
 5.35 Neighbours (1) (127780)
 6.00 News (1) and weather (159)
 6.30 Regional News (1) (821)
 7.00 Holiday: The Seychelles, the Colorado Rockies, a swim-only trip to Cyprus, the New Forest and a bargain break on the Isle of Wight (1) (5273)
 7.30 EastEnders Tensions are running high as Simon confronts Tiffany about her relationship with Grant. Ian's fortunes take a turn for the worse in the wake of a disastrous town hall meeting. Kathy has an eventful evening (1) (235)
 8.00 999 Lifesavers Twin brothers remember how they came to be separated in a head-on car crash after an in-laws' wedding, which went horribly wrong (1) (1893)
 8.30 A Question of Sport (1) (7888)
 9.00 News (1) and weather (5362)
 9.30 Inside Story: House Traders the first in a new six-part series reports on estate agents, exploring the tenuous relationship which exists between them and the general public (1) (468708)
 10.25 Look Up (1985) Sylvester Stallone stars as a convict transferred by a sadistic warden to a brutal high-security prison, where his only hope of survival is to fight back. Directed by John Flynn (1) (512490) WALES: 10.25 FAW Invitation Cup (516070) 11.05 FILM: Look Up (822273) 12.00am FILM: On the Streets of LA (174522) 2.00 News and weather (932916) 2.25 BBC News 24
 12.05am On the Streets of LA (1992) Crime drama with Louis Gossett Jr, Blair Underwood and Rae Dawn Chong. A convicted murderer is shocked to find the son he abandoned 20 years earlier has been sent to the same prison. Directed by Georg Stanford (5516542)
 1.35 Weather (8751028)
 1.40 BBC News 24

BBC2

7.00am See Hear Breakfast News (1 and signing) (2085457)
 7.15 Teletubbies (1) (2520728) 7.40 Casper Classics (1314028) 8.00 Blue Peter (1) (7528612) 8.25 The Secret Life of Toys (8784986)
 8.45 Ant and the Big Fight (1988) Comic-strip animated adventure, featuring the voices of Bill Oddie, Bernard Bresslaw, Sheila Hancock, and Brian Blessed. Directed by Philippe Grimond (3376631)
 10.00 Teletubbies (1) (400)
 10.30 Hollywood or Bust (1958) Farcical comedy which marked the end of the Jerry Lewis and Dean Martin double act. Directed by Frank Tash (7452)
 12.00 See Hear (1) (1) (42815) 12.30pm Travel Hour (78728) 1.00 Fremantle Sam (1) (2771878)
 1.10 The Travel Hour The sights and sounds of Normandy (5119419)
 2.10 Darts: World Championship Dougie Donnelly introduces action from yesterday's concluding first-round matches played over five sets (75114167)
 6.00 The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air Phil receives a poison-pen fax (1) (954098)
 6.20 Heartbreak High: Kurt finds himself under close scrutiny when Albers stages a mock trial (1) (470341)
 7.10 The Ballad of Yoko and John An O Zone special in which Lucy O'Brian talks to Yoko Ono about her life with John Lennon (411254)
 7.30 Walden on Heroes in a new series of unscripted balls. Former MP and interviewer Brian Walden explores the concept of heroism, beginning with a look at Winston Churchill (1) (877)
 8.00 University Challenge Newnham College, Cambridge, v Edinburgh University for a place in the quarter-finals. With quizmaster Jeremy Pezman (1) (8238)
 8.30 Food and Drink Rosalind and enclosed in perfume with a warm olive oil dressing; hot chocolate drinks; Mexico's best red and white wines (1) (1070)
 9.00 Witness to the Execution (1993) Futuristic drama, with Sean Young, Dee Wallace Stone and George Newbern. TV cop who solves Sean Young's latest brainwave, broadcasting the execution of charismatic convicted murderer Tim Daly, runs into difficulties when she discovers he may be innocent. Directed by Tommy Lee Wallace (1) (9693)
 10.30 Newsnight (1) (840761)
 11.15 Darts: World Championship Highlights (968852)
 12.00 Playboys Miss Richard falls head-over-heels in love (164904)
 12.25am Weather (2520510)

HTV

6.00am GMTV (8255815)
 9.25 Wits, Lies or Draw (1) (5040167)
 9.55 Regional News (1) (8493264)
 10.00 The Times, the Place (71524)
 10.30 This Morning (5058270)
 12.20pm Regional News (1) (708070)
 12.30 News (1) and weather (7861728)
 12.55 Shortland Street (7894219) 1.25 Home and Away (1) (7181761) 1.50 Crossroads. New series (8275186) 2.20 Cuisine (1) (7949578) 2.50 Vanessa: Stop Your Sobbing (1) (3329070)
 3.20 News (1) (894086)
 3.25 Regional News (1) (3949167)
 3.30 Potamus Park (8248631) 3.40 Wizzadora (8179167) 3.50 Rupert (1) (8925322) 4.15 The Arnold (1) (3426708) 4.40 The Ward (1) (868457)
 5.10 Yan Can Cook: The Best of China (7419273)
 5.40 News (1) and weather (819952)
 6.00 Home and Away (1) (855254)
 6.25 Regional News (553419)
 6.30 Regional News (1) (418)
 7.00 Emmerdale Rachel's first day at school does not go as smoothly as she had hoped (1) (2411)
 7.30 WALES: Ffynhonnig Wild Tracks: The New Valley (83)
 7.50 Gateways presented by Ann Gregg (831)
 8.00 The Bill: Hard Cash Beach and Canary by looking for £20,000 worth of pilfered baronies taken in a robbery six years previously (1) (8781)
 8.30 Police, Camera, Action! Alastair Stewart presents more video footage of motorway hazards (1) (5886)
 9.00 McCallum (2) McCallum discovers Corbett was murdered with the same weapon as Leamont. Could there be a connection with the retirement home and will this help Mollony? Forensic crime drama with John Hannah (1) (1708)
 10.00 News (1) and weather (30070)
 10.30 Regional News (1) (780099)
 10.40 Steel Magnolias (1989) Sally Field, Julia Roberts and Shirley MacLaine star in a small-town tale of six women in a small Louisiana town whose lives intersect at the local beauty parlor. Directed by Herbert Ross (8024790)
 12.50am Collins and Macrone's Movie Club (8126598)
 1.20 The Fashion Police (1) (1) (559484)
 1.55 Mile Me at Dawn (1948) Washburning Roberts and William Elyse and Stanley Holloway. Directed by Thornton Freeland (87028)
 1.15 The Time, the Place (1) (3226988)
 4.10 Football Extra (1) (213741)
 5.05 Forensic (8823804)
 5.30 News (55113)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
 12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (7966419)
 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (7419273)
 6.25-7.00 Central News (824235)
 7.30-8.00 Motorway (631)
 10.40 Central Sports Special (3906186)
 11.55 Midnight Caller (712612)
 4.10am Central Jobfinder '98 (4279945)
 5.20 Asian Eye (1983674)
 As HTV West except:
 1.25 Home and Away (7966419)
 12.55-1.50 Emmerdale (7183761)
 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (7419273)
 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (73273)
 7.30-8.00 Korczak (631)
 As HTV West except:
 6.10-6.40 Home and Away (7419273)
 6.00 Meridian Tonight (167)
 6.30-7.00 Surprise Chets (419)
 7.30-8.00 24 Hours (631)
 10.40 The Meridian Match (900186)
 11.55 Prisoner: Cell Block H (712612)
 Starts:
 7.00am The Bigger Breakfast (18419)
 9.00 Hang Time (24418)
 9.30 The Secret World of Alex Mack (52780)
 10.00 Moeisha (71506)
 10.30 Hangin' with Mr Cooper (46831)
 11.00 The Montanas (3896)
 11.30 The Bigger Breakfast (8220099)
 11.45 The Pink Panther (8218254)
 12.00 Ricki Lake (37983)
 12.30pm Sesame Street (83896)
 1.00 Slot Machine (2734728)
 1.15 Y Blobs (2722968)
 1.30 Fishing: The Slot Black River (8218254)
 1.55 Film: The Land That Time Forgot (28748167)
 3.30 Collectors' Lot (525)
 4.00 Bewitched (772)
 4.30 Countdown (544)
 5.00 5 Pump (5419)
 5.30 Wet Side Story (896)
 6.00 Newyddion (204506)
 6.10 Hero (481457)
 7.00 Pobel y Cwm (138419)
 7.25 Dudley (575815)
 8.00 Y Gwyl (7831)
 8.30 Newyddion (3438)
 9.00 Mafnata, Yr Enaid Mawr (423235)
 9.45 Pond Life: Success (385544)
 10.00 Brookside (850693)
 10.35 Kangaroo Palace (49567726)
 11.00am Brt Girls (1740587)
 12.55-2.35 Film: Nosferatu (861200)

CHANNEL 4

7.00am The Bigger Breakfast (18419) 9.00 Hangtime (1) (24418) 9.30 The Secret World of Alex Mack (1) (52780) 10.00 Moeisha (71506) 10.30 Hangin' with Mr Cooper (1) (46831) 11.00 The Montanas (3896) 11.30 The Bigger Breakfast (8220099) 11.45 The Pink Panther (1) (8218254) 12.00 Sesame Street (37983)
 12.30pm Light Lunch A reunion for the Grange Hill old boys (8256278)
 1.30 His Majesty O'Keefe (1953) A swashbuckling adventure starring Burt Lancaster, directed by Byron Haskin (1) (2103332)
 3.10 Pat and Mat Animation (8172761)
 3.30 Collectors' Lot Exploring the homes of Sir Walter Scott, early photographic materials and cartoon sculptures (1) (525)
 4.00 Bewitched (1) (1) (772) 4.30 Countdown (1) (9742848) 4.55 Ricki Lake (1) (3707341) 5.30 Pet Rescue (1) (896)
 6.00 Gamesmaster Computer games magazine (1) (708)
 6.30 Home Improvement American comedy series (1) (781)
 7.00 Channel 4 News (1) (934419)
 7.25 Things to Come (481273)
 Daniela Bas in Vienna (8.00pm)
 8.00 Travelog New series. One deaf, one in a wheelchair, reporters visit India and Vienna (7831)
 8.30 Brookside Sirbad's health fears grow. Max tries to sweet-talk Jacquell round. Eleanor is finding motherhood a bit hard to handle (1) (3438)
 9.00 The Trouble with Money The different experiences of lottery winners. First shown as part of the Cutting Edge series (1) (2051)
 10.00 Kangaroo Palace First of a two-part drama about Australians on the loose in Earl's Court, London, in the 1960s. With Jacqueline McKenzie, John Polson, Rebecca Gibney and Jeremy Sims. Concludes tomorrow (1) (385328)
 11.55 The Fringe Dwellers (1985) starring Kristina Nehm. A young Aboriginal persuades her family to move from a shanty to a white, middle-class neighbourhood. Bruce Beresford directs (21659)
 1.45am News Street Murders (1990) with Mark Little and Ben Mendelsohn. A black comedy about two brothers who work in a Melbourne abattoir. Directed by Aleksis Voulas (9846397)
 3.00 Visions of Heaven and Hell Does our salvation lie in new technology? (1) (7) (8735281)
 4.00 Hidden Hands: Is Anybody There? Aspects of modern art (1) (1282525)
 5.05 Photo Romans (1) (8450738) 5.20 In Conversation With... (1) (8573705) 5.55 Sesame Street (4382026)

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
 Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Viewpoint decoder will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are: picture: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz
 6.00am News Early (2985508)
 7.00 Executive (1) (8420761) 7.30 Milkshake! (7273898) 7.35 Adventures of the Bush Patrol (1) (1579631) 8.00 Hawkzoo (1) (715490) 8.30 WideWorld (7174761)
 9.00 Espresso (1038506) 9.55 Empire of the Elephant (1) (7243341) 10.30 Sunset Beach (1) (1354047)
 11.10 Looza (8182235) 12.00 5 News (7185877) 12.30pm Family Affairs (1) (7) (5536985)
 1.00 Stalk and the Beautiful (1) (8429032) 1.30 Paved Rooms (1) (1) (8786326) 2.00 5's Company (8349051)
 3.30 A Fine Madness (1968) Comedy with Sean Connery as a frustrated poet in New York and Joanne Woodward as his wife. Directed by Irvin Kershner (4289235)
 5.30 Exclusive An interview with Robert Pastorelli who stars in Filz, the American version of Cracker (8104070)
 6.00 100 Per Cent Game show without a host (8101883)
 6.30 Family Affairs Mel and Jamie surf the Internet to try to track down Duncan in America (1) (819235)
 7.00 5 News (1) (8975612)
 7.30 Empire of the Elephant: There are Werhogs at the Bottom of My Garden Wildlife cameraman Bob Campbell demonstrates how the wildlife of Nairobi can play havoc with your gardening. Last in series (1) (8198419)
 8.00 Instant Gardens The team create a sun-drenched garden with a formal Georgian feel, for a site in Bristol (9561032)
 8.30 Working Out: The Broadgate People who cannot survive without pumping iron. Focusing on the Broadgate Centre, set in the heart of the City of London, where merchant bankers, brokers and financial whiz-kids go to build a fitter body (1) (9370167)
 9.00 The Sweeney Lady Luck Regan is told the identity of a robber but cannot prove his guilt (4888058)
 Deadpan comic Jack Dee (10.00pm)
 10.00 Jack Dee Live at the London Palladium The deadpan comic at his best in a stand-up routine (21827070)
 11.15 The Jack Docherty Show Late-night chat and comedy (3761341)
 12.00 Live and Dangerous with Dominik Diamond and Shelley Webb (3423868)
 4.35am Prisoner: Cell Block H (4929484)
 5.30 100 Per Cent (1) (848397)

For further listings see Saturday's Vision.

SKY 1

7.00am Street Story (8457) 7.30 The Simpsons (8984) 8.00 Bump in the Night (782433) 8.15 Open (831890) 8.30 The Simpsons (8984) 9.00 The Simpsons (8984) 9.30 The Simpsons (8984) 10.00 The Simpsons (8984) 10.30 The Simpsons (8984) 11.00 The Simpsons (8984) 11.30 The Simpsons (8984) 12.00 The Simpsons (8984) 12.30 The Simpsons (8984) 1.00 The Simpsons (8984) 1.30 The Simpsons (8984) 2.00 The Simpsons (8984) 2.30 The Simpsons (8984) 3.00 The Simpsons (8984) 3.30 The Simpsons (8984) 4.00 The Simpsons (8984) 4.30 The Simpsons (8984) 5.00 The Simpsons (8984) 5.30 The Simpsons (8984) 6.00 The Simpsons (8984) 6.30 The Simpsons (8984) 7.00 The Simpsons (8984) 7.30 The Simpsons (8984) 8.00 The Simpsons (8984) 8.30 The Simpsons (8984) 9.00 The Simpsons (8984) 9.30 The Simpsons (8984) 10.00 The Simpsons (8984) 10.30 The Simpsons (8984) 11.00 The Simpsons (8984) 11.30 The Simpsons (8984) 12.00 The Simpsons (8984) 12.30 The Simpsons (8984) 1.00 The Simpsons (8984) 1.30 The Simpsons (8984) 2.00 The 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GOLF 39

Montgomerie seeks major impetus from US triumph



SPORT

CRICKET 40

Warne weighs in with 300th Test wicket



TF

Non-League club seeks to stage tie Stevenage aim to reach for the Sky in Cup

By JOHN GOODBODY AND DAVID MADDOCK

STEVENAGE Borough, the FA Cup giant-killers, are planning to double their ground capacity to ensure that they can stage their fourth-round tie at home against Newcastle United.

The Vauxhall Conference club, who beat Swindon Town 2-1 on Saturday, want to install an extra 6,000 seats for the match, which would be shown live on Sky Sports on January 25. The alternative would be for Stevenage to give up their home advantage and play the game at St James' Park.

The Stevenage directors talked to police yesterday about measures for safety and security of the crowd and Victor Green, the Stevenage chairman, is optimistic that the club will be given permission to stage the fixture. A final decision will be made this morning.

Green said: "It's a home draw and we want to show the world we are very proud of our stadium. Another 6,000 seats will allow us to get all our supporters in and send some more tickets up to Newcastle. Newcastle have lost twice before to non-League sides and we want to make it a hat-trick. This is all part of the beauty and glory of the FA Cup and, at the same time, it will be wonderful for the town."

The club will have further meetings with police, the fire

department and the building regulations office today to consider the fine details of how Stevenage can meet the safety requirements.

The present capacity at Broadhall Way is 6,700, but the temporary seating would allow Stevenage to send 3,500 tickets to Newcastle for their supporters to travel south. Stevenage believe that this would relieve problems of congestion outside the stadium caused by supporters of the FA Carling Premiership club, who otherwise might be tempted to travel without tickets and hope to buy them on the black market.

Emerson returns 41
Motson in hot water 42

Martin O'Neill, the Leicester City manager, confirmed yesterday that he has spoken to Coventry City about the prospect of signing Dion Dublin, their centre forward. While O'Neill suggested that he has yet to follow up the initial inquiry, it seems that he could complete the transfer of the striker should he be prepared to offer around £4 million.

O'Neill has received an offer from Liverpool, for Matt Elliott, the Leicester and Scotland centre back, also of around £4 million. If Dublin moves to Filbert Street, the deal would

be financed by the transfer of Elliott to Anfield. Liverpool would be prepared to allow either Phil Babb or Neil Ruddock to be used as a makeweight in the deal.

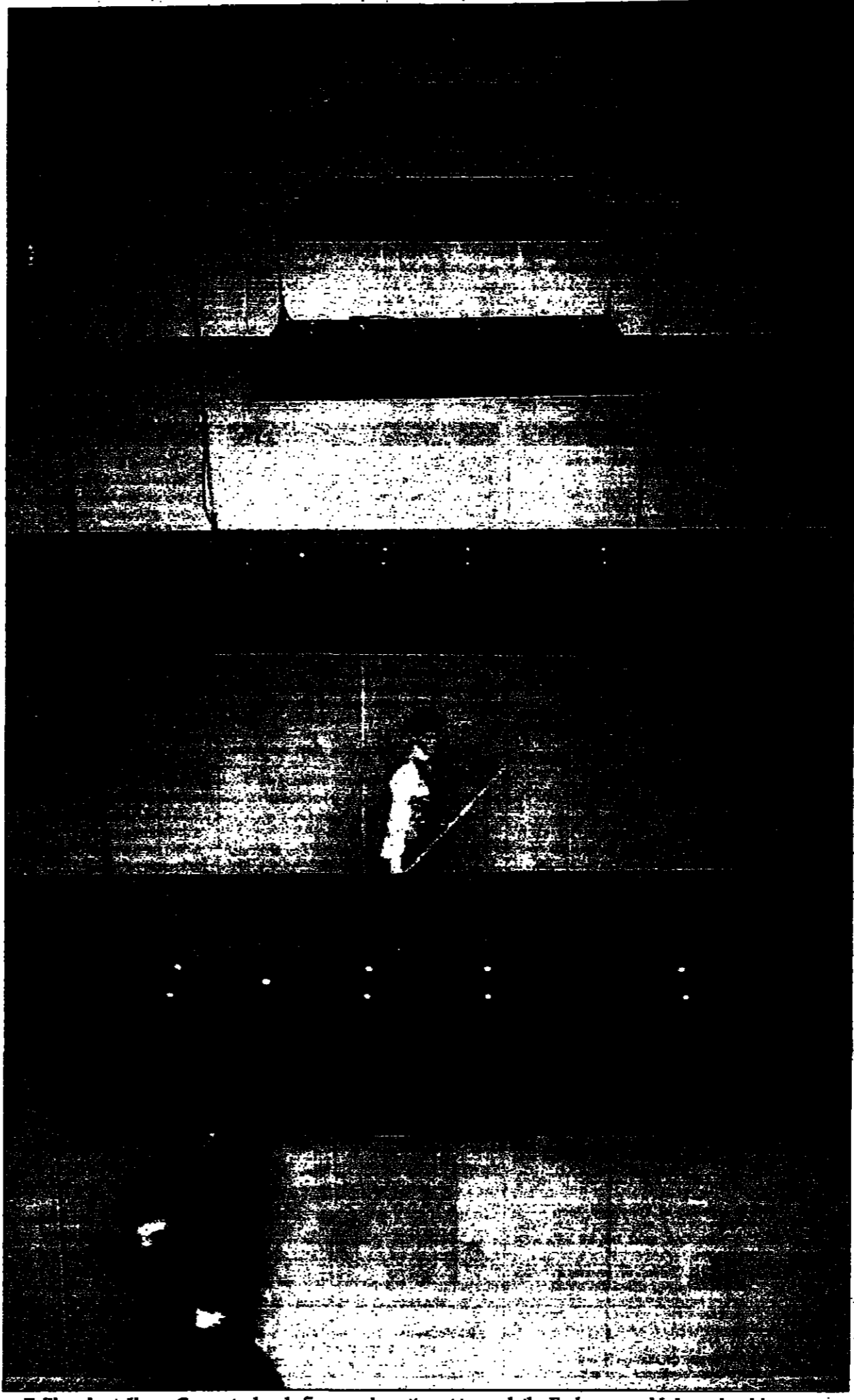
"I made contact with Coventry when it appeared that they would be willing to listen to offers," O'Neill said yesterday. "I have not had any further contact so far but, clearly, I like Dion as a player. He is strong and intelligent, and has a very good touch for a big fella."

Gordon Strachan, the Coventry manager, suggested at the weekend that he would be loathe to lose the forward, who impressed in the victory against Liverpool in the FA Cup last Saturday. He does, however, have a pressing problem with the arrival at Highfield Road this week of Viorel Moldovan, the Romania striker, signed for £3.5 million from Grasshopper Zurich before Christmas. He is likely to receive a work permit in time to allow him to play against Chelsea on Saturday.

Steve Dunn, the referee who was criticised by Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, for disallowing a goal in the FA Cup third-round tie against Wrexham at Selhurst Park last Sunday, will be the official in charge of the replay at the Racecourse Ground on January 13, the Football Association confirmed yesterday.

Wimbledon thought they had reached the fourth round when Marcus Gayle headed in a corner from Neal Ardley during time added on at the end of the match. Dunn, however, disallowed the goal, saying that he had blown the final whistle while the ball was still in mid-air. It revived memories of Clive Thomas, the referee who ruled out a goal for Brazil against Sweden in the 1978 World Cup.

Kinnear was furious and threatened to ask the FA to change the referee for the replay, but the FA has said that Wimbledon had not made an official request and so Dunn will be in charge.



Falling short: Karen Carr cut a lonely figure as her attempt to reach the Embassy world championship appeared doomed to failure. She trailed Phil Williams 7-1 after the first session of their qualifying match

Rangers ready to take action against Gascoigne

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

WALTER SMITH, the Rangers manager, yesterday hinted that Paul Gascoigne will be disciplined for being caught on camera pretending to play the flute at the Old Firm game last Friday.

Mid Stein, Gascoigne's agent, claimed that the England midfielder player was trying to humiliate the club's supporters. Smith did not say the incident but was furious when he found out.

"This isn't something we want to see," he told the Daily Record. "I don't want to start saying in public what will happen but he will be dealt with internally."

Stein refused to condemn Gascoigne's actions, saying: "Of course I am aware of the publicity in Scotland surrounding this incident, but where is the publicity about the actions of some of the Celtic supporters, who were chanting 'Gazza' near his wife?"

The Scottish Football Association will decide this week whether to take any action against Gascoigne after waiting to receive the report from Hugh Dallas, the referee. The SPA is unlikely to pursue the matter, however, unless Strathclyde police act on a series of complaints and launch their own investigation.

Meanwhile, a new 12-team Scottish Premiership moved closer to being in place for the start of next season. The leading clubs, led by Rangers and Celtic, would prefer to begin with ten teams and possibly take two more on board the next year.

It is understood, however, that they would be willing to consider kicking off with a 12-team set-up if they come under pressure from the lower league clubs when they meet next Monday.

The leading ten clubs said they have had no official approach about the matter but a three-division set-up of 12, 12, 16, instead of four divisions of ten, remains a possibility.

Peter Marr, the chairman of Dundee, the first division leaders, said: "A 12-team league next season would be great from our point of view. We are chasing promotion and are in the driving seat at the moment, but it would also be good for all ambitious clubs like ourselves."

Private

Wife in Lake
husband free
murder
collapse

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solutions.

- ACROSS: 1 Put into other words (10), 8 Staying power (7), 9 Mil. trumpet (5), 10 Cooker (4), 11 More powerful (8), 13 Utter snarl-up (6), 15 Start (five) (6), 17 Tiny sea organisms (8), 18 Oh dear! (4), 21 Wagner Ring river (5), 22 Rumour (7), 23 Fine writing: sales brochures (10)

- SOLUTION TO NO 1294: ACROSS: 1 Backbencher, 7 Amber, 8 Bulbous, 10 Handbill, 11 Wall, 13 Orphan, 15 Rafter, 17 Buff, 18 Cannabis, 21 Rectal, 22 Drupe, 23 Down payment

- SOLUTION TO THE TIMES TWO FESTIVE JUMBO: ACROSS: 1 Play second fiddle, 9 Slipstream, 16 Pterodactyl, 17 In-group, 18 Alleges, 19 Insuperative, 20 Subedit, 21 Peron, 22 Goshes, 24 Ambience, 26 Privilege, 29 Novelty, 30 Roll up one's sleeves, 31 Scratch the surface, 34 Andorra, 36 Omitted, 38 Dancing, 40 Dumbfounded, 44 Anne Neville, 45 Trainee, 46 Drive-in, 47 Rochester, 51 Twiddle one's thumbs, 54 Steering committee, 57 Soft goods, 60 Trunking, 61 Congress, 62 Silletto, 64 Exile, 66 Haitian, 68 Identical twin, 70 Orinoco, 71 Inertia, 72 Inattentive, 73 Signal ring, 74 Photosynthesised

- DOWN: 1 Popping in, 2 Abets, 3 Spoonbill, 4 Clashing dish, 5 Nitwit, 6 False imprisonment, 7 Daisy Miller, 8 Lagne, 10 Lepidoptera, 11 Plantains, 12 Tulip, 13 Eager Beaver, 14 Misunderstandings, 15 Sombreno, 25 Neuralgia, 27 Let us, 28 Asphodel, 31 Shot across the bows, 32 Titan, 33 Endangered species, 35 Dyfed, 37 Divot, 39 Invasion, 41 Meekness, 42 Urinal, 43 Dreamboat, 48 Clean living, 49 Erie, 50 Recognition, 52 Determinant, 53 Safety catch, 55 Neighbour, 56 Machined, 58 Golf links, 59 Spoonfeed, 63 Strain, 65 Evolve, 67 Notch, 69 Waits

Focused Henman sinks Sanchez

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN DOHA

HENMAN was in a state of focus before trying to beat each other to the net. As the light rain distracted Sanchez, Henman drew first blood by engineering two set points with Sanchez serving at 5-6, but fluffed them with two lacklustre returns. Six deuces later, he finally passed Sanchez to reach a third set point, and this time made no mistake. With the first set in the bag, it was plain sailing, save for the intervention of a cat who made a brief but show-stopping appearance in the penultimate game.

"It was a pleasing start," Henman said. "You are always tight in the first match of the year. You're anxious to get off to a good start, but it's a good sign that I was keen and eager. The first set was very close, but once I got that, my level went up."

As for his ranking - at present No 17 in the world -

Wasim stepping down as captain

Simon Wilde says that the Pakistan player has been getting death threats

Wasim Akram has resigned as the Pakistan captain and this time it may be for good - though nothing in that country's tortured cricket world is certain. Villification goes with the job to an even greater extent than in other countries and Wasim and his family have been subjected to such painful treatment of late that he has apparently resolved to play no further part in the leadership of the team.

Having led his country to the demolition of West Indies at the end of last year, Wasim had been confidently expected to take the side on a two-month tour of South Africa and Zimbabwe, starting later this month.

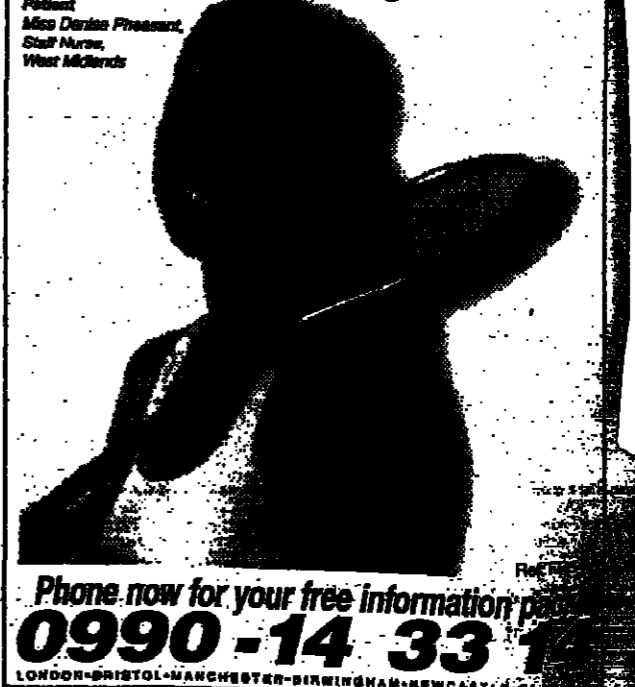
However, he has been paying a heavy price for a poor but apparently inconsequential performance by his team in a one-day tournament in Sharjah last month that was eventually won by England. Pakistan lost two of their three

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